

Averett

The background of the cover is a photograph of a woman with short blonde hair and glasses, wearing a dark blazer and a pearl necklace, speaking at a wooden podium. A blue banner with the Averett University logo is draped over the podium. Behind her is a large American flag. The magazine title 'Averett' is at the top, with 'today' in a red script font. The text 'A magazine for alumni, parents and friends of Averett University' is below the title. The issue date 'Fall 2008' is in the top right. Three article teasers are on the right side. The Averett University logo is on the left side of the podium banner.

A magazine for alumni, parents and friends of Averett University

Fall 2008



Dr. Tiffany Franks Named 24th President
of Averett University

Pages 12-13

Ticket to Ride:
Equestrian Program Offers Students
a Chance for Success

Pages 22-23

New Autism Initiative to Benefit
Region's Children

Pages 14-15

Update from Averett's President

Dear Alumni and Friends,

I can't tell you what a privilege and honor it is for me to be a part of the Averett family. My husband, Joe, and I felt welcomed as soon as we stepped on campus. Your hospitality is a testament to all that is wonderful about Averett, and I look forward to meeting many of you in the coming year.

You may not realize it, but Averett is celebrating a significant birthday this year. Our university is turning 150 years old! An institution does not reach this milestone without doing a lot of things right. The rich history and promise for the future are part of what attracted me to Averett. As you know, Averett is served by a dedicated group of faculty and staff. The students and alumni I meet tell me how the mentors and friends they found at Averett have influenced their lives. Averett is also a place of innovation and courage. It has not only changed with the times but has led the way in areas such as adult education. It has stood strong on its liberal arts foundation, aware of the fact that teaching students how to critically examine issues and how to read and write well are the keys to success in every career field. These and many other attributes drew me to Averett. This is where I have been called to serve.

I am very excited about our new initiatives in autism and athletic training which you will read about in this issue. Both will address important needs in this region, and both build on Averett's existing strengths. I'm also pleased to report the completion of several Main Campus facility upgrades. We have added new energy-efficient windows in the residence halls, remodeled residence hall restrooms, resurfaced our tennis courts and have completed a number of projects related to facility upkeep. As president, I will continue to update you on new initiatives and campus improvements.

Of course, in addition to "What's going on at Averett?", the question we often get asked is "Where does Averett go from here?" "What's next?" We all—alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends—have hopes and dreams of what we believe Averett can become in the next 150 years. I am excited to lead us in discovering and realizing our collective dreams. During this process, Averett will be guided by a youthful spirit of adventure, creativity and flexibility. We will examine where we are and envision where we want to be. This will be no time to lose the willingness to take risks. As always, we will do this while remaining true to our core university values.

Of course, we can't do this alone. You are as much a part of Averett as the students who study here and the faculty and staff who work here every day. Help us tell the Averett story. Introduce students to us who you think would benefit from what Averett has to offer. Wear your Averett shirts, pins and hats. Support Averett financially. Volunteer with the Alumni Association. Attend university events, and cheer for Cougar sports teams. Be proud of Averett, knowing that we are proud of you!

Thank you again for so warmly welcoming me to the Averett family. I look forward to seeing you soon.



Dr. Tiffany McKillip Franks

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Tiffany Franks". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Tiffany Franks
President

Special Features

12 -13 Called to Serve

Meet our new President, Dr. Tiffany Franks

Dr. Franks greets George, '42, and Leah Shields following the May 7 announcement of her presidency.



Inside

Vol. 2, Issue 1

Departments

Campus Lights	1-5
New at Averett	8
Arts@Averett	18
Cougar Athletics	19-20
Class Notes	24-31

Cover: Dr. Tiffany Franks was introduced as Averett's new president on May 7. She was welcomed by students, alumni, faculty, staff and members of the community during on a ceremony on the front steps of Main Hall.



14 Raising Davis

Averett's new autism initiative will help children like Davis Hampton Shelton get the education they need and deserve.



21 Showcasing our Expertise

We're building on the strength of our athletic training program to create an Athletic Training Performance Center.



7 Going Strong

At the age of 91 one of Averett's newest graduates is still ready to learn.



8 Ready to Meet You

New Alumni Director Dan Hayes, '92, is ready to reconnect Averett alumni.

CAMPUS LIGHTS



Welcome to Averett *today*

The start of a new academic year is in many ways like New Year's Eve on a university campus. It's a time for a fresh start. Rather than just being a transition to colder weather, I hope fall will bring you a spring-like spirit of renewal and excitement.

As this issue goes to press, we are welcoming more than 320 new students to our Danville Campus. It will be our privilege to help guide these students as they explore and discover the depth of their own potential.

We are also pleased to welcome Dr. Tiffany Franks as our new president. President Franks' warmth, sincerity, vision and energy are inspiring. Under her guidance, Averett is already beginning to greet the future with a youthful spirit of adventure and courage.

It's going to be a great year at Averett University. I hope to see you on campus soon. As always, we welcome your comments, suggestions and news.

Susan Huckstep, '89

Averett *today*
A magazine for alumni, parents and friends of Averett University
Fall 2008

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Averett today is published by the Averett University
Office of Institutional Advancement.

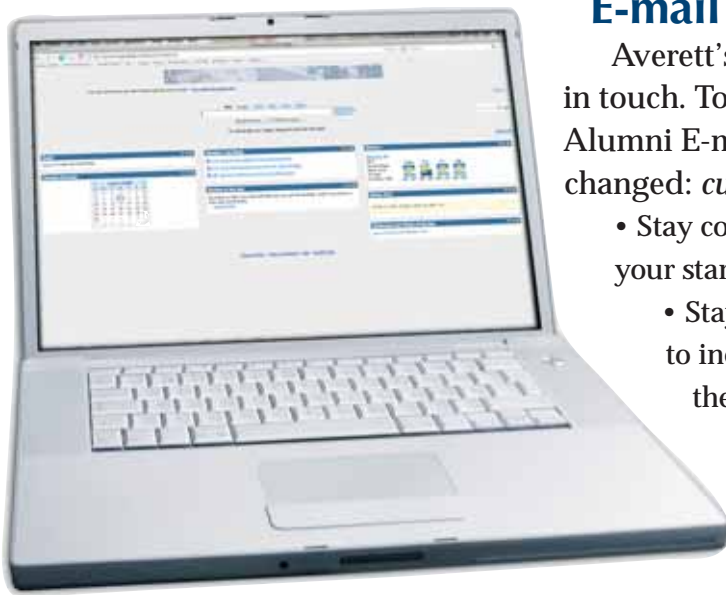
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Averett Welcomes Largest Freshman Class in More than a Decade

Averett welcomed more than 320 new students this fall—among them more than 246 freshmen, making this the largest freshman class in more than a decade.

In addition to an increase of nearly three percent in new student enrollment, the University experienced a record-breaking year in applications—up six percent from 2007.

Seventeen international students representing seven countries are part of this year's new student population. This is three times the number of international students who enrolled as freshmen in 2007. They are joined by new classmates from 13 states—from as far away as California.



E-mail Just Got Personal

Averett's new E-mail system for alumni helps you stay in touch. To logon visit: www.averett.edu/myaverett and select Alumni E-mail. Note: Your Averett E-mail address has changed: *currentusername@aumail.averett.edu*.

- Stay connected: Access your E-mail and calendar directly from your start page.
- Stay informed and entertained: Customize your start page to include news, stock quotes and fun content from across the web.
- Make it your own: Personalize the look and layout of your start page in just seconds.

Class of 1958 Celebrates 50th Reunion, Creates Scholarship

The weekend of May 3rd, alumni from the Class of 1958 returned to campus for Spring Reunion, some of them for the first time since they graduated 50 years ago.

Festivities included a tour of campus, dinners and walking with the Class of 2008 during Commencement. A highlight of the weekend was the 50th reunion class's induction into the Order of the Daisy. The Order of the Daisy welcomes as members alumni who graduated from Averett 50 or more years ago.

Members of the Class of 1958 inducted into the Order of the Daisy included:

Ann Collins Bitler, Barbara Smith Bryant, Virginia Crute Bushmiller, Nancy Baker Clark, Gonzalee Ford, Athajean Terry Martin, Martha Crush Seers, Loralee Hermann Stucky and Robert York. Class of 1957 member Ann Fay Garrett was also inducted.

"Averett is as wonderful today as it was 51 years ago," Garrett wrote in an E-mail following the event. "The people are so gracious, friendly and went way overboard in making us feel so much at home, just like they did then."

During their reunion weekend, the Class of 1958 announced the creation of a new endowed scholarship, which will be awarded in 2009 to a full-time female student. To date, the class has raised more than \$38,000. Ford notes that the class chose to start a scholarship because of its benefit to students.

"I encourage all 1958 graduates to send in whatever you can, whether it's \$19.58 or \$1,958 or \$19,000, and put it in that fund," Ford said. "I plan to contribute every year. The scholarship will continue to benefit students long after we're gone."



Members of the Class of 1958 renewed friendships during their May induction into The Order of the Daisy. The Class of 1959 and their friends will gather in spring 2009. Watch for details!

Alumna Inspires Students at Honors Banquet

When Dr. Martha Walker, '74, was an Averett student there were many faculty and staff who made an impact on her life. At this year's Honors Banquet, Walker encouraged current students to offer assistance to those who will follow them at Averett.

"You are being honored by individuals who have built bridges for you, touched your life, encouraged you (and) supported you," Walker said. She challenged the students to "turn around and build a bridge to the next group of students that will also cross through these doors, and that you turn and support them and that you always hold Averett near and dear to your hearts."

Walker addressed the students during Averett's new Honors Banquet. The banquet was held in place of the former Honors Convocation and recognized students for academic achievement and service.

Walker is a community viability specialist with the Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE). She joined VCE in 2005 after serving Danville Community College for 28 years where she taught and later worked as director of institutional advancement. She is a past member of the Pittsylvania County School Board and past chair of the Danville Pittsylvania County Chamber of Commerce.



Martha Allgood Walker, '74, encouraged students to build bridges for the future.

Alumni and Friends Show Support by Establishing Student Scholarships

Endowing a scholarship is a great way to show your support for Averett students and to leave a legacy of generosity. Students will soon benefit from these new scholarships which total more than \$400,000.

Class of 1958 Scholarship

Louise Hall McDowell, '57, Endowed Scholarship

Pfau Family Scholarship

Warren and Mary Lewis Bayes Weddle, '34, Scholarship

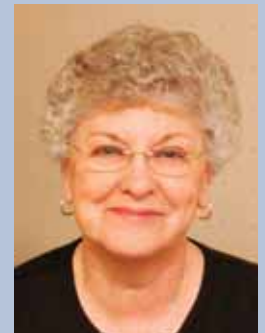
Virginia Elizabeth Davis Woody, '73, Scholarship

Retirements

Dr. Tommy Foster, professor and chair of the Physical Education, Wellness/Sport Science Department retired after 20 years with Averett.



Christine Davis retired after 20 years of service to Averett's Office of Financial Aid.



In 2006-2007, University Archivist and Humanities Librarian Clara Garrett Fountain, '62, retired after 18 years of service.

Family Ties

As Grandmother Celebrates 50 Years, Grandson Crosses the Stage

For one family, May 3 was cause for a double celebration. Martha, “Marti,” Crush Seers, ‘58, celebrated her 50th reunion and her grandson Timothy Kruger, an aeronautics major, participated in Averett’s graduation.

“I feel extremely proud that Tim chose to attend Averett,” Seers said. “I have always been proud of Tim and his achievements, but I couldn’t have felt more proud than I did when I attended the 2006 Averett Homecoming and flew with Tim as my pilot for the first time.”

Kruger admits his grandmother’s high opinion of Averett, along with its aeronautics program, influenced him to choose the University.

“She talked about what it was like when she was here and the type of education she was able to get from the school back when she was here. I think between those conversations, I felt like Averett would be the perfect fit.”



Martha, “Marti,” Crush Seers, ‘58 and Timothy Kruger, ‘08



Retired Biology Professor Launches Online Gallery

Dr. Edward Fisher who retired last year after 43 years of teaching biology to Averett students is combining his love of nature with talent for art. He is keeping busy with paintings and woodcarvings.

Students who traveled with him to Maine may recognize the familiar Maine coastline depicted in his paintings, but there are also scenes from Virginia, North Carolina and Florida.

To view Fisher’s artwork visit: www.artbyedfisher.com.

Is Averett a part of your family legacy?

If multiple members of your family attended or currently attend Averett, please send us a photo for publication as our next Family Ties feature.

E-mail (*photos shot at high-resolution please*): news@averett.edu

or mail:
Averett University
Office of Public Relations
420 West Main St.,
Danville, VA 24541

Mother/Daughter Graduates Known for Friendly Competition

Members of Averett's December graduating class wouldn't have been surprised to see two of their classmates racing each other across the stage to receive their diplomas. For mother and daughter MBA graduates Anne Crochet, '07, and Lori Crochet-Doré, '07, a little friendly competition was all part of the journey.

"I was enrolled first," Crochet-Doré said. "My mother decided that if I could do it, then she should do it! She even tried to get her last grade before me to see if she could beat me to graduation!"

"Competition is my mother's middle name (just joking mom'). We learned quickly where each of us has strengths and weaknesses in our class work. The grade was not the driving factor for me but rather the experience and the knowledge."

Averett afforded Crochet the chance to reach her educational goals and draw closer to her daughter.

"The evening hours and the opportunity to share quality time with Lori simply took other programs out of the picture," said Crochet, whose master's degree has "opened a new world" to her.



Anne Crochet, '07 and Lori Crochet-Doré, '07 share a smile at graduation. Their friendly competition helped them see each other in a new light.

"He noted on my paper with a smiley face 'Go girl!'"

He noted on my paper with a smiley face 'Go girl.'"

Crochet-Doré notes that attending class together allowed them to see each other as equals with their own thoughts and viewpoints.

"I enjoyed watching the way my mom was appreciated by our peers," Crochet-Doré said. "Some of our classmates called her mom! It was funny to watch her get excited about learning a topic or mastering a problem. My favorite was when she was the driving force behind a Coca-Cola project. She is a huge collector of Coca-Cola, and she was on fire during her presentation. It was a joy to watch the animation she displayed during her presentation. For the first time in my life, I had to tell mom to stop talking. This was a nice change for me!"

With master's degrees under their belts, this mother daughter team may just be entering halftime of their friendly competition. Both are looking forward to enrolling in a doctoral program.

"Friendly competition became our hallmark," Crochet said. "Professors would walk in the class and say, 'Oh, so you're the mother-daughter team—totally in competition with one another!' One professor was so in tune with our competition I received a half point toward the competition."

At Nearly 91 Years Old, Graduate Receives Bachelor's Degree

Sixty-seven years after he received a two-year degree from Averett, Albert Maurakis, '41, '08, graduated May 3 with his second, a bachelor of arts degree in history.

Finishing his education was always something Albert wanted to do, but it wasn't until three years ago when he was talking to his wife, Pat, '85, MED, that he really considered it.

"It's a real mystery" why I wanted to go back, he said. "We were having a conversation, and I said I should go back and get my degree. I went that very day to see about enrolling. It was compulsive. I told Dr. Pfau, if my mind and body work, I'm going to get my degree."

"It was not really an impulse," Pat interjected. "It was something he'd always wanted to do."

"I finished at Averett in 1941 and felt as if I had to go back (there). There was a tie (to the University)," Albert said. "Pat has been a really great help, really supportive."

Albert's return to school was an adjustment for both. For Pat, it meant early morning alarms, as Albert would get up at 6:30 a.m. for an 8 o'clock class. It also meant a restricted social life.

"I studied day, night," Albert said. "Christmas Break? Forget it, studying. Spring Break, Fall Break, studying. Even though my mind is still functioning it was hard to grasp things that are new."

// I studied
day, night. Christmas
Break? Forget it, studying. //

professors that had Ph.D.s the first time. I find the professors knowledgeable and learned a lot from them. I hope they learned something from me.

"The first week in school, I was in history class and a girl came in and sat next to me. She had breakfast with her and brought coffee. That was my first experience with breakfast in the classroom."

Albert also had to adjust to the change in dress. When he first went to Averett the men went to school wearing dress shirts and neckties.

"In those days girls dressed (up) and so did guys," said Albert, who followed the days of old by coming to class in a dress shirt and tie, usually with a cap perched on his head as well.

While Albert has no intention of pursuing another degree—he considers himself "lucky to get through" his bachelor's degree—he will be auditing at least one class in the fall.

"It never occurred to me to do it sooner, neither has quitting crossed my mind. This is the right time. It was a great experience," Albert said with a grin.



For Albert Maurakis, '41, '08, and his wife, Pat, '85 graduation day meant their lives would get back to normal—at least until Maurakis starts class again this fall.

Early mornings and extra study were not all that Albert had to get used to as there was a "vast difference" between Averett as it was 67 years ago and Averett as it is now.

"I think the professors are much better," Albert said.

"I don't even know if I had

Hayes, '92, Excited About Role as Alumni Director

Appearing soon at an event or doorstep near you, Averett's new Alumni Director Dan Hayes, '92, is ready to reconnect alumni to their alma mater.

No stranger to Averett, Hayes graduated from Averett in 1992 with a bachelor of science degree in business administration: aviation management and a minor in theatre. In addition, he previously worked at the university for two years as the director of student activities and Greek affairs.

"I'm very excited to be back in Danville working at Averett at this time in its history," Hayes said. "Averett is a huge part of my life, as well as my wife's. We look forward to coming back and building on Averett's successes as well as bragging about all of the things that we love about our alma mater. I hope that people will feel comfortable calling and bragging about the good days as well as making suggestions for how we can be better. Any success I have in this job will be because of active alumni."

Hayes comes to Averett from Christchurch School on the Rappahannock River in Middlesex County where he was the director of summer programs and special events for four years. He has also worked as a district executive for the Boy Scouts of America and managed tourism for Pulaski County.

"Dan will be quite an asset to the University, since he has a long history and extensive experience with Averett, both as a graduate and a former employee," said Page Stooks, vice president for institutional advancement. "Our Averett family will ultimately be strengthened by the connections that Dan will make with not only the 3,800 alumni in our community, but those across the country as well."

He is married to Kim Cullinan Hayes, '92, and they have two children.



Dan Hayes, '92, looks forward to meeting alumni at this year's Homecoming.

New at Averett

New Alumni E-mail!: Graduates can now access their Averett E-mail account through a customizable Google homepage. To logon visit: www.averett.edu/myaverett and select Alumni E-mail. Note: Your Averett E-mail address has changed: *currentusername@aumail.averett.edu*.

Study Abroad in Scotland: Averett students have the opportunity to study abroad at Scotland's Dundee University. Dundee is renowned for its medical research, life sciences, mathematical/engineering, art and design divisions.

AU Alert System: Students can sign-up to receive text message alerts that will be sent in the event of a campus emergency.

Campus Renovations: Thanks to a \$1 million gift from the estate of Danville resident Anna Williford, students will return in the fall to enhanced security systems, renovated restrooms, new residence hall windows, resurfaced tennis courts and parking lots, and more!

Online Courses: Averett MBA graduates can now expand their knowledge and skill through Averett's online concentrations in human resource management, leadership and marketing. Call 1-800-849-0115 for information.

Pfau Leaves Legacy of Impacting Student Lives

By Leslie Shaip, '09

A university president cannot have a greater legacy than to have made an impact on the lives of students. That is the legacy left behind by outgoing Averett President Dr. Richard Pfau and his wife, Nancy.

During his six-year tenure at Averett, Dr. Pfau's main focus has been the students and spending time with them. This interaction, along with the exchange of ideas with professors, is what Pfau will miss the most.

"We take seriously our roles as teachers, not only in formal classes but also in other settings. Students are optimistic and enthusiastic," Pfau said. "We enjoy the fun of being with them."

Pfau has enjoyed many activities involving students including teaching classes, attending students' performances and games and entertaining them at his home.

The Phi Sigma Sigma's Christmas formal was held at his home, and he joined the volleyball team's after-match circle. He was always in the middle of the annual dinner with international students on family weekend and loved being on the sidelines at football games. According to Pfau, he also tried to help with specific business or academic problems, and he helped the Student Government Association (SGA) establish its independence.

More importantly, he has listened to students and tried to help them on their journeys through life. "Just encouraging them and watching them grow," Pfau said of his favorite memories with students.

Pfau has made a lot of friends over the years and tries to keep up with former students. This spring he and his wife visited with several graduates including former Student Government Association President Amanda Woodward Barber, '03, and her husband, Travis, '03, in Gainesville.

"As a student, it felt great knowing that we had a president who was looking out for the best interests of the students," Amanda said. "I was also confident that when he made decisions he was thinking first and foremost of the Averett student body."

Travis agrees. He recalls the time the Pfaus allowed SGA members to stay at their house when they were away for the weekend and how comfortable he felt talking with President Pfau.

"I was comfortable enough with Dr. Pfau to ask questions and offer suggestions," Travis said. "Whenever I saw him on campus he always gave me the feeling that he wanted to be at Averett and that he wanted to help us (the students) accomplish our goals. This was true right down to my graduation day when he gave me a high five after I received my diploma."

As for future plans, the Pfaus have moved to New York and plan to take it easy for a while. He is also weighing several opportunities for teaching, foundation work and consulting.

Pfau hopes the construction of the Student Center will be one of his legacies, along with academic freedom and tolerance and a commitment to excellence. He has high hopes for the future of Averett students.



The Pfaus retired and moved to New York.



Students enjoyed close interaction with the president and were frequent guests in the Pfau's home.

Trip to Africa = Trip of a Lifetime

When Associate Biology Professor Laura Douglas Meder, '77, began researching places to take students on a trip, at the top of her list was Africa—a country she's wanted to visit her entire life. Mario Lawrence, '06, and rising junior Hannah Brown, felt the same way. When they heard about the trip, they jumped at the chance to go.

"I wanted (the students) to see Africa, the animals, a different ecosystem," Meder said. "We were in two jeeps, and it was like being in a living laboratory. Africa is one of the few places left in the world where you can see animals living naturally in their habitat."

For Lawrence, the trip was a chance to explore his "love of nature" and "the animals I knew I would be able to experience." Brown, who was looking into an internship in Africa when she heard about the trip, "wanted to experience another culture, another world."

On May 6 Meder, accompanied by nine other people—including English Professor Dr. Ann Garbett and Sociology Professor Dr. Rebecca Clark—flew to Africa for a safari trip. The group toured the Ngorongoro Crater, the Serengeti Plains and the Lake Manyara Region, flying back to the States May 14.

"Since leaving Averett, I have worked closely with several animals in zoo settings before leaving to get my master's," said Lawrence, who is attending Coastal Carolina University. "Going to Africa was an opportunity of a lifetime for me, because I cannot connect these animals to their natural habitat."

"Whenever a trip like this is offered, it is a great opportunity to learn other cultures as well as learning about yourself and your own culture. Being able to go on safari each day and wake up to animals out in nature was one of the things I enjoyed the most about this trip. I believe that going on this trip allowed me to have the opportunity to learn more about myself and how I can better serve the community as well as the world that I am a part of."

Echoing Lawrence, Brown, who is majoring in biology: ecology/environmental biology said "being able to experience (animals) in their natural habitat and having nothing holding either of us back from the other was a whole new world."

"The smells, the sights, the tastes and noises were rewarding in themselves," Brown said. "You'll never get complete silence in the States. You'll never hear a lion roar outside your room in the States. You'll never have the Serengeti sunset in your backyard in the States. It was amazing, and words can't even begin to describe my experience and what I've learned."

Along with seeing a variety of animals—leopards, rhinos, elephants, rhinos, zebras, giraffes, gazelles, antelope and



various birds—the group visited a local Masai Village.

“Visiting the Masai Village was amazing,” Brown said. “The tribe was so nice and welcoming. They were informative and willing to help us understand and willing to share their culture with us. It was a rewarding experience to see that everyone else does the same things as you, just in a different way. It was awesome to be able to experience a tribal dance and wear tribal jewelry too.”

Meder, Lawrence and Brown would agree they are forever changed by their trip to Africa—changed for the better.



Called to Serve: Dr. Tiffany Franks Named 24th President of Averett University

Dr. Tiffany Franks didn't plan on becoming a university president. She simply set out to spend her career in a small college setting where she felt she could make a real difference in students' lives. Wholeheartedly pursuing that goal turned out to be the best preparation possible for her new role as Averett's president.

"For me it's a matter of in what role and in what place can I make the most difference. I have been so blessed to be a part of smaller, private, church-related institutions. It's what I know. It's where I did my undergraduate work. It's where I spent the last 20 years. It's what I love."

Franks, who was nominated for the Averett presidency by her then boss and mentor Greensboro College President Dr. Craven Williams, said she was attracted to the strengths and potential she sees at Averett.

"The more I learn about Averett the more impressed I am with the people, the mission, its historic relationship with the church, its liberal arts tradition and all of the opportunities I see here. I felt the pieces of the puzzle were right. It's a good place in which to serve. It's a place where I felt I could make a bigger difference."

Bringing Out the Best in Others

Hired by Greensboro College as dean of students at the age of 23, Franks began her career a long way from the trappings of a presidential office. During her first year as a new dean and fresh out of a master's degree program at The Ohio State University, Franks decided to tackle a troubled men's residence hall by doing what she does best—listening and then rolling up her sleeves and working. She moved in and lived in the residence hall for 30 days conducting in-depth interviews with nearly all of the 180 residents. She



Dr. Franks is welcomed by former President Dr. Frank Campbell, his wife, Janet (right), and alumna Leslie Davis Conway (center), '87.

"I have been so blessed to be a part of smaller, private, church-related institutions. It's what I know. It's what I love."

During her career, Dr. Franks' roles have included responsibility for admissions, financial aid, student life, marketing and communications, public relations and fundraising with major prospects. She is pictured here with Student Government Association President Angel Guy



left with a list of hundreds of things the students wanted to see changed, but she also helped them to see their role in making those changes possible.

Today she brings that same philosophy and approach to her role as president—seek first to understand rather than to be understood, work to bring out the best in others and be a good steward in all that you are called to do.

“My work is a calling, and I want to make the best difference I can. I can only be at my best if I have invested in the talents and wisdom of people. I have a real passion for helping to bring out the best in others because when the people around me are at their best, we will all shine together. After all, when it comes down to it and the day is done—what else will really matter other than the way in which we helped others become their best?”

New Vision, Enduring Values

If you want to see her face light up, you only have to ask Franks about the Averett she would like to see in five years. It is a vision for the future born of careful thought with a vital dose of inspiration and enthusiasm.

“I want Averett to be the kind of place where the people of Averett and this region feel such pride in their institution that they are bragging on every corner about who we are.”

Franks’ vision includes involved and connected alumni, facilities that allow Averett to better compete in the marketplace and an academic program that continues to evolve in ways that attract students. But even as we move forward, Averett’s essential identity will remain.

“We will together, as a university family, shape our vision, but our values will be preserved. From our liberal arts tradition to the sense of belonging and family orientation that we have about our life here, those are paramount. No matter what we do, those things have to remain the same.”



Dr. Tiffany McKillip Franks

A native of Columbus, Ohio, Franks holds a bachelor of arts degree from Ohio Dominican University, a master’s in education with concentrations in student development, administration and counseling psychology from The Ohio State University and a doctorate in higher education management from the University of Pennsylvania. She is married to Joe Franks, a long-time teacher and coach at Grimsley High School in Greensboro, NC.

Although she doesn’t consider herself an athlete, sports have always been an important part of her life. Her father was a businessman and long-time volunteer coach, and husband Joe proposed to her during a Clemson University football game by having a plane fly over the stadium trailing a banner with the question “Tiffany, will you marry me?” It was all caught on camera as her parents, who were in on the secret, watched from Ohio.

She enjoys golf, community activities and spending time with students and family. The Franks have two Bichon Frise dogs named Pearl and Diamond.

Raising Davis: One Family's Journey with Autism

The beautiful brown-eyed baby boy never slept through the night. He never looked at his mother who would hold him and rock him for hours as he cried. Before he was two years old, Davis Hampton Shelton was diagnosed with autism.

Catherine, '00, and Jason Shelton began what has already been a long journey with their son, now four, with some of the worst fears and most difficult questions any parents could imagine. They also began without many resources to help them.

"It was horrible," Catherine said. "Nobody could tell me where to go and what to do. I was trying to find someone to tell me what my son needed, and there was nobody there. I just stayed online for hours searching for answers.

"Unless you live with it, you can't imagine the frustrations—the tantrums, the not sleeping. You can tell he's miserable, but he can't tell you what's wrong."

But the Sheltons never gave up hope. Today, Catherine proudly plays a video clip of her son in his newly found four-year-old voice correctly identifying the color green.

"I thought he would never talk," Catherine said. "I just cry every time I hear a word. It's been four years, and I had never heard that little voice. When he puts his hand on my



Catherine, '00, and Jason Shelton enjoy spending time with Davis and his little sister Victoria.

"Davis is different,
but he's wonderful.
He's loving. He's happy.
He has a chance at a great future."

face and says 'mamma'—that keeps me going. It's just little steps."

The little steps take big effort. With autism, early intervention and intensive therapy are key. Davis receives 35-40 hours of specialized therapy every week.

"We do everything we can to keep him in our world and not let him get into his," Catherine said. "I don't ever want to look back and wish I had done more for my son."

One of the keys to Davis' success has been a carefully controlled diet. It took the Sheltons time and research to determine that gluten severely impacts Davis' ability to sleep. They are also working with their son to get him to eat a larger variety of foods. For now he will only eat foods with a crunchy texture.

"For two years he never slept," Jason said. "We had him on formula and later on Pediasure which his system reacted to in a similar way that people react to morphine. Once we took him off of certain foods, the difference was tremendous. If he has gluten, he doesn't sleep for two days."

"People don't realize that with autism you have to heal the whole body," Catherine added. "The changes we see in Davis when he is getting the proper nutritional balance are unreal."

The Sheltons would love to share the lessons they've learned about diet, therapy and hope. "A lot of parents of autistic children don't want to talk about it, but I'll spend days with anyone who wants to talk to me," Catherine said.

For those of us who are not directly impacted by autism, the Sheltons hope that by getting to know Davis we will all better understand autistic children.

"I don't want anybody to ever put Davis down," Catherine said. "People stare at some of his behavior, and I know they are thinking 'he's a brat.' I just wish people had a better understanding of autism. Davis is different, but he's wonderful. He's loving. He's happy. He has a chance at a great future."

Averett Introduces Program to Help Meet Needs of Autistic Children

When Hampton Wilkins', '73, '87, grandson, Davis Hampton Shelton, was diagnosed with autism a dream began to take shape.

"We look back and think how nice it would have been to have a resource center to walk in and say 'I think my son is autistic, what do I do? Where do I turn?'" Wilkins said.

If Wilkins has his wish, the parents and teachers of autistic children will soon be able to find resources at Averett. Wilkins is helping to raise funds and spearhead the plan for the Averett Center for Excellence in Autism Education. With a strong teacher education program already in place, the program is a natural fit for Averett and clearly addresses a regional need.

Virginia is tied for first in the nation in the number of autism cases per capita. A recent survey of 314 Danville and Pittsylvania County teachers report having a child with autism in their classroom at some point during their teaching careers. Yet training opportunities for teaching autistic students are limited. Eighty-percent of survey respondents indicate that they have had no instruction over the past five years in teaching autistic students.

In response to this need, Averett will begin offering graduate level classes this fall for certified teachers who desire to learn the best practices for teaching students with autism. The curriculum consists of a three course, nine credit hour program that involves both classroom study and hands-on work in the field. Future plans call for the creation of a resource center and an on-site teaching lab.

"We all pray that Davis will some day be in the mainstream educational system," Wilkins said. "We don't know what his capabilities are, but we have seen tremendous improvement. We hope one day that Davis will graduate from Averett and have a family of his own. The creation of this resource center at Averett will help many parents and autistic children see their dreams come true."



Inspired by the love of his grandson, Hampton Wilkins', '73, '87, support is spearheading Averett's new autism initiatives.

Want to Help?

Gifts to Averett's Campaign for Autism Education will support:

- Educational programs for teachers and others who work with autistic students
- Scholarships for students who major in special education and who have a special interest in working with autistic students
- The creation of a regional resource center for parents, students, teachers and paraprofessionals
- The hiring of a program director with expertise in autism

Averett University
Campaign
for
AUTISM
Education

If you are interested in becoming a part of this important effort, please contact:

Page Stooks

Vice President for Institutional Advancement

Averett University

420 West Main St., Danville, VA 24541

E-mail: pstooks@averett.edu Phone: 1-800-AVERETT, ext. 15654



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Events

Attend Homecoming Oct. 24-26 and other alumni events.



Support

Support Cougar athletic teams when they are in your area. Schedules are online:

www.averett.edu/athletics/athletics.php

Travel

Dr. William Trakas, professor of history, will be leading a study tour into Germany, Poland, and the Czech Republic in early May 2009. The twelve-day trip will feature Berlin, Dresden, Prague, Krakow, and Warsaw.

Alumni and friends of Averett are eligible to participate. For additional information and trip details, contact Professor Trakas at 434-791-5741 or wtrakas@averett.edu.

Questions? Suggestions?

Dan Hayes, '92,
Director of Alumni Relations
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(Choose order Averett license plates, under E-Opportunities)



Pictured: The license plate of President Tiffany Franks

Averett Goes Green

Averett took important measures this summer to reduce its environmental impact. Our initiatives include:

- Introducing a campus recycling program
- Switching to energy efficient bulbs and fixtures
- Installing timed thermostats
- Adding double-insulated windows to the residence halls
- Installing energy efficient heating units in parts of the campus



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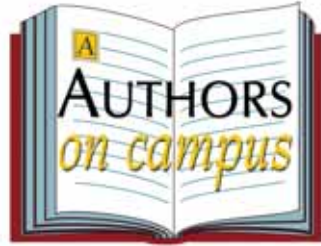
Fall 2008

Authors on Campus

Sept. 22, 7:30 p.m.

Author Sharyn McCrumb

McCrumb is a New York Times best-selling author, whose works centered on the history and folklore of Appalachia are taught in secondary schools and colleges throughout the country. Her books include New York Times Best Sellers "She Walks These Hills," "The Rosewood Casket" and "The Songcatcher."



Theatre for Young People Series

Oct. 2-4

Averett Theatre Department

"Aesop and Friends"

Musical

Nov. 13-16

Averett Departments of Theatre and Music

"A Salute to Broadway"

Watch <http://www.averett.edu/arts> for the complete Arts@Averett schedule.

Alumni Show Their Creative Side in Averett Art Show

For the first time since she graduated from Averett in 1985, Eva Ellis Inlow participated in an art show. She was one of 36 artists whose work was on display in the spring Averett Alumni & Student Art Show.

Inlow makes jewelry using wire and gems. Her work was so well received during the show, she is thinking of selling some of her pieces. The necklace Inlow submitted for the show, "Lancaster," was made of onyx and gold wire.

"I haven't participated in anything before," Inlow said. "I was really proud of the piece and wanted to show it off. I had just made (the necklace), and the show came up and I thought 'Wow, perfect timing.'"

While Averett's art students participate in an art show every spring, alumni are invited to participate in a special show every five years.

"We like to invite (alumni) back to see what they're doing, how they've utilized their degrees and how they're still tied up with creative efforts," said Diane Kendrick, art professor and chair of the department. "It is so good for students to see what our alumni are doing. It lets them know that they too can have a career in art."

In addition to Inlow, alumni participating in the show included: Eva Barbour Palmer, '62; Shawn Jones, '02; Linda Meissner Huggins, '80; Sandra Forbes Marsh, '76; Thomas Dareneau, '96; Wendy Bryant Motley, '98; Linda Franklin Gourley, '78; James Menefee, '84 and Robert York, '58.



This year's Averett Alumni & Student Art Show was a mixed-media exhibit featuring the work of ten alumni artists.

Cougar Athletics

Cougar Athletes Experienced Success On and Off the Field of Play



(left) Members of the Averett football team helped out on a Habitat for Humanity job site during their annual team Community Service Day. Students congratulate competitors at the Special Olympics. (right) Last year Averett athletes logged more than 1000 hours of community service volunteering for Special Olympics, collecting food for a local food bank, working with area children and much, much more.

Among the Notable Cougar Athletic Successes This Year:

- Men's basketball repeated as USA South Conference Tournament Champions. The team also won the USA South Sportsmanship Award for the fourth consecutive year.
- The women's basketball program is also on the rise, capturing eight conference wins.
- Women's volleyball continues to be a strong contender, posting their 18th consecutive season with 20 plus wins.
- Averett's Intercollegiate Dressage Team placed first in regional and sixth in national competition.
- Women's softball made it to the finals of the USA South Tournament with an upset of top seeded Shenandoah University.



www.averett.edu/athletics

Alumnus Named Director of Athletics

Averett graduate and former Cougar athlete Sam Ferguson, '97, leads Averett as the University's new director of intercollegiate athletics.

Ferguson returned to his alma mater in 2000 as sports information director. In 2005, he was promoted to director of media relations for athletics and assistant to the director of athletics. He was named full-time athletic director during the 2007-2008 academic year after serving as interim. He replaces Charles Harris who remains at Averett as vice president for student services.

Ferguson supervises Averett's 14-sport athletic department and manages the Cougar athletic facilities. He continues to promote Averett athletics with the recent addition of basketball game-day broadcasts on ESPN radio and a web-based Averett Cougar call-in show.



Sam Ferguson, '97



Carly Pearce

New Coaches Bring Experience and Enthusiasm Women's Soccer

Carly Pearce will lead the Cougars as the new head women's soccer coach for the first time this fall.

A native of Brighton, England, Pearce joins Averett from Roanoke College where, as an assistant soccer coach, she helped the Maroons to an 18-4-1 record. Before Roanoke, Pearce served as an assistant at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Okla., and has coached with the Virginia State Olympic Development Program.

Pearce holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Northeastern where she was a four-year starter for the women's soccer team. Prior to college, Pearce played for the National Women's Soccer Academy for three years. The academy selects the top 60 players heading to college to play internationally for England.

Men's Soccer

Ed Goodhines, former head coach at Division II Long Island University-Southampton, has joined Averett as head men's soccer coach.

Goodhines, a native of Syracuse, N.Y., coached for 17 seasons at Southampton, his alma mater. He led the Colonials men's soccer team to three consecutive New York Collegiate Athletic Conference titles from 1998-2000. In addition to his team's field accomplishments, Goodhines' 1999 team held the country's highest team GPA at the Division II level.

Following his tenure at LIU-Southampton, Goodhines served as the director of athletics and head boys' soccer coach at Fredericksburg Academy in Fredericksburg.

Men's Golf

John Franklin, who has served as head golf coach at Dan River High School for the past six seasons, has been tapped to head Averett's golf program. Franklin has also been the assistant club professional at Danville's Tuscarora Country Club for the past nine years.



Ed Goodhines



John Franklin

Averett Announces Plans for New Athletic Training Center

Whether it's getting an elite athlete back on the field of play, helping a firefighter avoid injury or getting a weekend golfer back on the course—qualified athletic training professionals are in great demand. In response to this need and building on existing University strengths, Averett is developing an Athletic Performance Training Center.

What is it?

It will be a fitness, evaluation and treatment center for athletes and anyone who would benefit from athletic training and sports medicine services. The facility will feature state-of-the-art equipment and be a source for certification and re-certification classes as well as workshops and conferences. Current plans call for it to be located on Averett's North Campus.

What makes Averett uniquely positioned for this project?

Professional athletes, members of the elite armed forces, firefighters and others are already visiting and calling our Danville Campus to consult with Athletic Training Program Director Dr. Lee Burton. Burton is the co-developer of the Functional Movement Screen (FMS) which has proven effective in the prevention of injuries. His clients include 11 NFL teams, US Army Special Forces, FBI, Secret Service, firefighters, a professional golfer, the Mayo Clinic as well as major hockey and baseball teams.

Students are drawn to the success of our program, and athletic training is now one of our fastest growing majors at Averett. This growth is expected to continue as the demand for certified trainers increases.

Averett's program growth, combined with the expertise of its faculty, makes the creation of an Athletic Training Center an important next step.

How will it benefit students?

Thanks to Dr. Burton's connections, athletic training students benefit from outstanding internship opportunities. The addition of this center will provide them with invaluable hands-on experience without ever leaving campus.

The center will also provide student-athletes with access to a first-class performance facility, increasing recruitment and retention.



How will it benefit our region?

The Athletic Training Center will provide wellness screenings and other services to the community. The center may also serve as a resource for area high school athletes. Finally, the addition of the Athletic Performance Center will enhance the economy of Southside Virginia by positioning Averett and the region as a key destination for first class athletic-training services.

What progress has been made, and what happens next?

To date, Averett has established and funded a physical therapist's position, developed plans for a fitness facility and secured an equipment donation from Reebok. Donors are now being sought to fund the building of the center and to purchase additional equipment. For more information or to learn how you can help with this project, contact Page Stooks, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, 1-800-AVERETT, ext. 15654 or E-mail: pstooks@averett.edu.

Equestrian Studies @ Averett University



From left to right Virginia Henderson, Lindsey Behr, Erin Molthen, Cassidy Sanderson, Meaghan Byrne.

IDA Team Named Reserve Champion, Places 6th in Nation

Averett's Intercollegiate Dressage Association (IDA) Team was named Reserve Champion for Region I. The team advanced to compete at the National Competition at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Mass., and placed sixth.

"Our entire team, not just the riders who made it to Nationals, rode extremely well this year," said Ginger Naff Henderson, '91, assistant professor of equestrian studies. "The level of commitment our riders have to the IDA team has grown consistently over the last few years."

Twelve teams from colleges and universities across the country and almost 100 riders competed in the national competition. Three Averett riders were named regional champion or regional reserve champion and "Baron" was named Horse of the Year.

This was Averett's second consecutive trip to national competition. In 2007, the team placed fourth.

Student Becomes Youngest USDF Certified Instructor in the Nation

Senior Meaghan Byrne is the youngest person certified as a United States Dressage Federation (USDF) instructor. She is certified from the training level to second level. Byrne was able to attend the certification workshops and take a number of the tests at Averett.

"Averett University was certainly a huge aid in my certification process," Byrne said. "I was able to gain experience from the wonderful students, horses and faculty. Averett also has a great facility that is used by the USDF for many of their educational programs."

Byrne is pursuing a business administration degree with a concentration in finance and a minor in equestrian studies: dressage.



Meaghan Byrne was able to pursue certification through a number of on-campus workshops.

Opportunities for Practical Experience Attracts Students to Equestrian Program

Jennifer Pietrzykowski, '09

Unlike some of the other schools she considered, Averett's equestrian program was the only one that had cross-country jumps—a major plus as far as Jennifer Pietrzykowski, '09, was concerned.

"I took advanced stable management my sophomore year where I learned how to manage a barn and feed crews," Pietrzykowski said. "It was very helpful because it showed me what managing a barn was like.

"I'm working on a business plan right now where I have to plan for the first seven years after I graduate. Since I hope to have my own barn or work for a barn it's been a good exercise."

Christina Schroder, '08

Averett was Christina Schroder's, '08, first choice for equestrian studies.

"Other schools look more at the science side (of horses), this was more hands-on. I'm very much one of those people who prefer the hands-on aspect."

She adds that working at the barn has taught her how to deal with people from different backgrounds in different settings.

Schroder followed the dressage track because she would like to pursue a career in therapeutic riding and one day own a riding facility.

Shona Cooper, '11

For Shona Cooper, '11, who has been riding horses since she was five years old and has a jumping background, Averett's program offered more hands-on opportunities, and the climate was warmer than schools she looked at in Connecticut.

One of Cooper's favorite classes her first year was a riding class she took with Assistant Professor Jane Faulkner because "she treats us like we're family, not students."

Like her fellow students, Cooper dreams of having her own business one day. She's leaning toward the instructing and training side of the industry.



Equestrian Program @ A Glance

- Bachelor's degree in equestrian studies with three academic tracks: management, dressage instruction, eventing instruction
- One of few curriculums in the nation aligned with the United States Dressage Federation (USDF) and the United States Eventing Association (USEA) Instructor Certification programs.
- 100+ acres for training and riding (includes: indoor arena, dressage and jumping rings, round pen, cross-country course)
- Nationally-ranked Intercollegiate Dressage Team & competitive Combined Training Team
- Regularly attracts top clinicians like Jane Savoie and Richard Lamb for workshops

Class Notes

'30s

Frances Stanley Attkisson, '35, of Rockville is a cancer (sarcoma) survivor, still enjoying 30 years of retirement from Hanover County Public Schools. She recently celebrated her 90th birthday. Frances enjoys attending church activities, singing in the choir, knitting and traveling.

Charlotte Slaughter Kettnich, '35, of Des Moines, Wash., sends best wishes to everyone. She fondly remembers living in Danville near the college when she was young and enjoyed being able to walk to and from her classes every day.

Frances Legge Callahan, '39, of Little Rock, Ark., remembers well graduating as a piano major and accompanist. She went on to receive her bachelor's of music degree in 1941 from Converse College in Spartansburg, S.C., and then returned to Averett and Converse to teach in the mid-1940's. Frances continued her studies at the Cincinnati Conservatory and taught piano and handbells for many years. She wrote music for handbells, much of which is published and used worldwide. Her husband, Lt. Col. Paul Callahan passed away in 2003. Frances celebrated her 87th birthday recently and lives in a retirement village.

'40s

Mary Lyllion Ramsey Frith, '40, of Gretna, lost her husband in 2002. She is in good health, active in Hospice Volunteer work, Gretna First Baptist Church and several senior citizens groups.

Jewel Spencer Marvin, '41, of Port St. Lucie, Fla., and her husband, Edward, along with two nieces (one an Averett alumna, **Karen Owens Jones, '73**), and their husbands had a wonderful trip to Alaska. They visited Denali Park where they saw lots of wildlife and had a view of Mt. McKinley, and then enjoyed the glaciers of the region.

Annie Revere Patterson, '42, of Magna, Utah, now has two great-grandchildren. In November, she went on a Hawaiian cruise. She still enjoys playing golf and actively volunteers with seniors and at her church.

James Henry Powell, '43, of Blanch, N.C., still works part time for Schewel's as a consultant and celebrated his 84th birthday last November. His daughter, **Frances Powell Harper, '70** has her own business in Danville — Ntended for Kids & Merle Norman Cosmetics and operates a second Ntended for Kids store in Lynchburg.

Virginia Hearn Whiting, '43, of Fredericksburg, spent November with her daughter in Umbria, Italy. They cruised down the Danube River on the River Cloud II from Regensburg, Germany, to Budapest, Hungary, and had a glorious time sightseeing.

Anne Purcell Morris, '46, of Virginia Beach, retired after teaching 41 years. She enjoys staying home with husband, David. They celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary last August. Anne and David have two daughters, three granddaughters and two grandsons and four great-grandchildren. Church activities and the Lion's Club and Auxiliary keep them busy.

Dorothy "Dot" Mae Smith Weaver, '46, of Martinsville, and her husband, Milford, have been living at King's Grant Center for six years. Their son, **Andy Weaver '84**, is president of their family-owned business, Virginia Blower Co., in Collinsville. Their daughter-in-law, **Donna Wimbish Weaver, '84**, is a 3rd grade teacher at John Redd Smith Elementary School, in Collinsville.

Olga Mendell Toll, '47, of Scarsdale, N.Y., has retired from all volunteer programs and is enjoying playing lots of Bridge.

Eugene P. Black, '48, of Gainesville, has developed macular degeneration, which limits his reading and writing abilities. However, he is still active in the church and the VFW. His grandchildren, ages 8 and 13, are a real joy. Eugene and his wife visit Danville at least once a year. He likes to keep in touch with his Averett classmates.

Charles S. Taylor, '48, of Saint Simons Island, Ga., and wife, Carolyn, moved to St. Simons Island from Atlanta in 2004, partly because of the good fishing around the island. So far, the fish have been very safe from him.

Gloria M. Braun Breisch, '49, of Queensbury, N.Y., after retiring and being widowed twice, moved to Queensbury to be near family. She has five grandchildren ages 13-22. She still enjoys playing golf and helps with the care of her paralyzed daughter.

Marilyn Gallo Schutt, '49, of Niantic, Conn., is enjoying retirement and her grandchildren.

'50s

Iris McGuire Gilla, '51, of Ocala, Fla., still enjoys all the activities in her retirement community of Oak Run Country Club where she is a member of the Red Hat Society. She and her husband, Ted, just returned from cruising down the Danube (Vienna to the Black Sea). This was their fourth cruise this year. Motto: Keep on Moving!!

Lois Hagerty Griggs, '51, of Pickens, S.C., has been living in S.C. for 47 years with husband, Dave. They have three daughters, three grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Mary Ray Dickson Evans, '53, of Stuart, Fla., has three sons and their families living in Stuart, Fla. In the summer, they go to Montreat, N.C., and enjoy the cool mountains.

Nancy Jeanne Madison Alward, '54, of Allendale, N.J., had a fabulous summer starting with a great cruise to the Eastern Caribbean with seven other high school girlfriends in May. June found her in Pompano Beach, Fla., with three other friends. July was a dream of a lifetime coming true. It was a beautiful trip to Zurich, Switzerland, round trip, including Interlaken area and seeing the Matterhorn on their last night. "Breathtaking!"

Frances Greene Carter, '54, of Venice, Fla., and husband, Ray, visit many states and even Canada to keep up with their six children, their spouses and the 16 grandchildren. Fran enjoys sharing E-mails with **Martha Grimes Childress, '54** and **El Hertier Densen '54**.

Edith Jean Foley, '54, of Newport, Vt., and her husband celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on September 7, 2007, with their eight children, 20 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Shirley Ann VanDine Rohe, '55, of Foster City, Calif., retired August 2005. She is now studying French and Spanish, taking Tai Chi, Chi Gong and drawing and painting classes three days a week.

Lelia Anne Barrett Chamlee, '55, of Milledgeville, Ga., continues to work for her husband who is an architect. She is active in DAR/SAR/CAR and church. She had a terrific brief reunion at Duck, N.C., with Class of 1955 friends in October of 2007. She is enjoying beautiful Lake Sinclair living.

Betty Holmes Hodnett Jackson, '55, of Midlothian, enjoyed going back to Averett with her roommate, **Sallie Trice Greene, '55**, for their 50th Class Reunion. Betty is enjoying her two grandchildren so very much. Her husband retired after 37 years with Reynolds Metals Co. They enjoy spending time at Betty's home in Halifax County. She has many fond memories of her two years at Averett.

Julie Deane Lochridge, '55, of Chapel Hill, N.C., enjoyed getting together in October 2007, with **Carol Alcock, Anne Barrett Chamlee, Lucy Ann Clayton Zablocky, Esther Medero** at **Laura Pfrommer Minnich's** home in Duck, N.C.

Anne Fay Garrett, '57, of Richmond, retired from the Virginia Department of Social Services/VITA after 30 years and transitioned to Northrop Grumman as an IT Field Buyer in July 2006. At age 70, she is still going strong. Her husband, Bob, passed away from a sudden heart attack in June 2005. She has two children and three grandchildren living in Georgia and Florida. She spends time working in the yard, reading, taking trips, visiting with grandchildren and children and shopping. Her other babies include three dogs and two cats to keep her busy.

Jane Dayhuff Collins, '59, of Clarksville, has enjoyed retirement years bringing her and her husband, Ron, to their 50th wedding anniversary. They have five grandsons; no great-grandchildren yet, but are patiently waiting.

Power of Giving Back

McDowell's Gift Impacts Student Lives

As a young girl growing up in on a tobacco farm in Charlotte County, Louise Hall McDowell, '57, was a good student who knew college held the key to her future. The problem was, her foster family couldn't afford college tuition.

But McDowell visited Averett and found that then president Dr. Curtis Bishop held the answer in the form of scholarships. Today, McDowell has endowed two scholarships—giving other promising students the hand up they need to pursue an Averett education.

"Each one of us leaves a footprint behind after our time here on earth," McDowell said. "I want to leave something worthwhile. Maybe my legacy will be that I helped educate young people who in turn help make the world a better place to live for all mankind."

McDowell and her husband, Charles, established the Carroll C. and Ruth McDowell Scholarship in the 1990s. McDowell recently established a second scholarship with money she saved while working in a school library.

"I know that my education made an impact on my life," McDowell said. "I want to give other students the same opportunity. Nothing can take the place of a good education."

McDowell lives in Richmond. She has three grown children who all have a college education and who have made her very proud.



Louise Hall McDowell, '57

Josephine “Cookie” Gianforte Stone, ‘59, of Reisterstown, Md., reports that all is well with her family. She has three grown children and six grandchildren ranging in age from three to 21.

Lois Ann Stoner, ‘59, Shelbyville, Tenn. enjoys Tennessee walking horse country, their pleasant, easy lifestyle and visiting her extended families. She has a 1 1/2 year old female dobie, Skeeter, and enjoys her positive energy.

‘60s

Martha “Geneva” Pendleton Crawford, ‘60, of Shalotte, N.C., is working part time as administrative assistant/financial secretary for a Baptist church in Supply, N.C. Her daughter lives in West Palm Beach, Fla. Geneva plans on moving back to her hometown of Stuart.

Molly Bittner Cooper, ‘61, of Bel Air, Md., still has her antiques and vintage clothing business — with shops in Hanre de Grace, Md. and Lewes, Del.

Martha “Marty” Lynde Sheperd, ‘61, of Enosburg Falls, Vt., remembers arriving at Averett as a 17-year-old in the fall of 1959, a student of poor academic record. She graduated two years later as a confident, top-notch student. Because of her leadership experience at Averett, she was able to obtain a BA and have a successful career. “Thanks for believing in me, Averett!”

Meriel Burgess Wright, ‘61, of Norfolk, married C.L. “Sonny” Wright. (retired consulting mechanical engineer, VA Tech 1996), in July 2006. Both were widowed and lovers of sailboats and boating. They recently planned a trip down the ICW (Intercoastal Waterway) in October — Norfolk to Charleston, S.C., and back. She sends “best wishes to all.”

Marguerite Kurtz Hussey, ‘64, of Southern Pines, N.C., and her husband recently became grandparents of twin boys who have a two-year old sister. “We’re happily BUSY!”

Janice Mae Salley Lacks, ‘64, of Kenbridge, enjoys her four grandchildren and being at home.

Fay Hoskins Satterfield, ‘66, of South Boston, retired after 32 years as a teacher and an elementary school counselor.

Mimi Maclin Anderson, ‘67, of Rainsville, Ala., opened The Art Studio & Galley in 2004. She teaches art classes in drawing and watercolor and exhibits paintings.

Laura Clark Chan, ‘67, of Pooler, Ga., has a new granddaughter, Larson Amelia Chan born March 26, 2007.

Sandra Allen Lawrence, ‘67, of Hanover, Penn., is enjoying retirement with family and friends. Travels include winter in Florida with trips to the seashore, Tennessee, Oklahoma, California and Maryland. Sandra golfs and reads avidly.

Dawn Bridgen Martin, ‘68, ‘03, of Richmond, has been named executive director of Halifax Educational Foundation in South Boston.

Linda Wilkinson Stallings, ‘68, of Earleton, Fla., completed 35 years of service at the College of Public Health & Health Professions and plans to retire.

Sheryl Legard Williamson, ‘68, of High Point, N.C., and her husband, Jim, have a new granddaughter. Hope Catron King was born on August 18, 2007.

Suzanne Cobb Keeton, ‘69, of Goochland, and her husband, Freddy, have been married for 45 years. They have three sons, Josh, Nick and Daniel. Their youngest, Daniel, and his band SIX CHASING SEVEN, have performed at Averett several times. Their middle son, Nick is an actor in Lancaster, Penn., at Sight and Sound Theatre. Suzanne keeps busy as a part-time bookkeeper at her oldest son, Josh’s printing business in Charlottesville and as an independent bookkeeper for others. She and Freddy are the proud grandparents of two boys and one girl. Suzanne has many special memories of Averett: “the DAISY CHAIN being one of the most prominent in my memory — being awakened before dawn to pick daisies in some obscure field, and spending hours “tying” them together — not a very pleasant experience when it was happening. “Just what was this

all for?” we would ask over and over. But when the time came to transfer the chain from our (Juniors) shoulders to the Seniors, it all seemed to make perfect sense.”

‘70s

Wallace Wade, ‘71, of Jerusalem, Israel, traveled to London in January and February 2007 for a week-long lecture tour, then a visit with his wife’s family in Hamburg. His two older sons are in the Israeli Army and are stationed near the Jordanian border. “Life in Israel is “not” as it is portrayed in the news, come for a visit your next vacation!!!”

Linda Hawks Walker, ‘72, of Victoria, and her husband, Mike, are expecting their first two grandchildren this summer. Linda volunteers at the local hospital in the ER and front desk and works with the hospice program for Lunenburg County. She enjoys working at church and helping in the community.

Margaret Janett Withers Cannon, ‘72, of Ruffin, N.C., has completed 34 years of teaching. She has taught all grades K-6 with most years having been in kindergarten. She is still working hard and still loves teaching the little ones. “Thanks to Averett for preparing me for my career.” Margaret has three grown children, one granddaughter and another grandchild on the way. She and her husband have been married for 38 years.

Karen Lynn Read Carson, ‘73, of Ashland, has an adorable granddaughter, who will soon be two! She works one day a week and plays the rest!

Phillipa Campfield Shoffner, ‘73, of Macon, Ga., and her husband, Mike, are looking forward to their first grandchild.

Albert L. Wilson, ‘73, of Southport, N.C., retired from Henry County Public Schools with 30 years of service. Albert enjoys living in Southport and teaching at Brunswick Community College. In his leisure time he enjoys painting various seascapes of the surrounding area.

Power

of an Averett Education



Tania Bethel White, '92, '94, MBA

Graduate Believes Averett was “Best Fit”

When Tania Bethel White, '92, '94, MBA, was looking at colleges, Averett was one of three schools on her list. Obviously, Averett won out over the other two because “a small school was the best fit for my personality.”

“All of my professors knew me by name, knew I was the girl from the Bahamas, and I was really impressed by that,” White said. ***“The first time it snowed all of my professors let me out of class.”*** Having that personal attention really meant a lot. I feel that personal touch would have been lost at a larger institution.”

Since she graduated from Averett, White has worked her way up the corporate ladder from chief financial officer with a big six accounting firm to the US Department of Commerce as deputy chief financial officer of economic development. From the US Department of Commerce, White moved to the Minority Business Development Agency where she is a financial manager and also covers duties as an acting administrative officer.

Often, her career advancement has come about as interest in her and the work she does, not because she was job hunting.

“I feel like I’ve broken through the glass ceiling and really accomplished something,” White said of her career success.

Nancy “Karen” Kirkman Hanckel, '74, of Fayetteville, N.C., now has three grandsons. Her husband, **John M. Hanckel, '75** is employed at Stock Building Supply after retiring from VA ABC with 30 years.

Roberta Thayer-Smith, '74, of Yorktown, completed her Ed.D. in the Education, Policy Planning and Leadership program at the The College of William and Mary, May 2007.

Martha A. Allgood Walker, '74, of Ringgold, completed her Ph.D. at Old Dominion University in December 2006. Her dissertation topic was: “Workforce Investment Act Services: Effect on Dislocated Worker Reemployment.”

Dorothy “Dotsie” Putney Williams, '74, of Midlothian, is retiring after 33 years as a classroom teacher! She and her husband, Gary, have three sons.

Candace “Candy” Long Cooper, '75, of Providence, N.C., along with husband, Gerald, have two “four-legged children,” dogs, Luke and Callie. She has been teaching developmental math at Danville Community College for 15 years. She was recently awarded the Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Award.

Stephanie Davis Trent, '76, of Reidsville, N.C., has a son, Matt, who is a student at the University of Richmond, and a pitcher on the “Spider” Baseball Team. She and her husband, “Butch,” have been married 31 years.

Lois Nedrow Jones, '78, of White Stone, retired from Northumberland Elementary (Pre-K teacher) in January 2007.

J. Scott Tune, '79, of Danville, has been awarded the professional insurance designation Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter (CPCU) by the American Institute for CPCU. Scott is celebrating his 15th year anniversary with Erie Insurance.

'80s

Steve E. Willis, '81, of Greensboro, N.C., recently completed a month as Scholar in Residence at New York University where he completed research on a new play based on the life of actress Diana Sands.

Mary Lammey McGregor, '82, of Virginia Beach, and her husband, Danny, have been married for 24 years. Their daughter, **Mary Gale McGregor, '06**, is a Sheriff's Deputy for the City of Virginia Beach. Their son is majoring in anthropology at Montana State University.

Joel Butts, '83, of Nashville, Tenn., is a technical publications manager for Schneider Electric/Square D Lighting Control Business. He and his wife, Linda, have been married since 1991 and have two children.

Power

of an Averett Education

The Power of Success: Catherine Lassiter, '84

Catherine Lassiter, '84, who began attending Averett in her 30s, described herself as "the dreaded older student who messes with the curve." Now she's "messing up the curve again" as an elementary school principal.

Lassiter's school, Forest Hills Elementary in Danville, received the 2008 Governor's Award for Education Excellence, which is awarded to a school that sustains a high level of excellence over a period of time. Students at Forest Hills have scored well on their Standards of Learning (SOLs) Tests for several years in a row.

Lassiter chose Averett for "*its excellent reputation*" and the fact it was within driving distance of her home in Gretna. Once she received her degree, she taught for nine years before she realized she wanted to go into administration. She received a master's degree in administration from Virginia Tech as well as a certificate in advanced graduate studies in curriculum and instruction.

As a principal, Lassiter still uses things she learned from her professors at Averett.

"The department of education not only gave me an academic base, the standard they gave me is one I use when interviewing teachers. (Averett) was a wonderful, wonderful environment as far as education went. I can't say enough about how prepared I was before I was turned loose on the world."



Cherie Stewart Harris Garland, '84, of Danville, would like to hear what other members of the Class of 1984 are doing now.

Bernadette Mary Nolan, '85, of Mineral, was named Spotsylvania County Middle School Counselor of the Year 2006-2007 and Virginia School Counselor Association – Middle School Counselor of the Year 2007.

Reginald S. Daniels, '86, of Camp Pendleton, Calif., has returned from deployment in Iraq. He spent one year in Al Asad and has returned to the 9th Communication Battalion 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton.

John Dell, '87, of Winston-Salem, N.C., won a third-place writing award in the daily news category of the Golf Writers Association of America Writing Contest. John has been a sportswriter for 21 years and is at the *Winston-Salem Journal*.

Helen Bailey Pokrzywa, '89, of Stokesdale, N.C., worked as the coordinator for JobLink Career Center in Rockingham County, N.C., from 1999 - July 2007. She is now the program coordinator for community workforce education at Rockingham Community College. She is married to Edward Pokrzywa.

'90s

Cindy Vargo Siok, '90, of Kailua, Hawaii, is a licensed realtor for RE/MAX 808 Realty in Honolulu. She and husband, Greg, have two children, Jared and Dylan.

Maria Thompson Loos, '91, and **Karl Wesley Loos, '91**, of Rustburg, adopted Wesleigh Cam Loos from Vietnam. Wesleigh received her certificate of American Citizenship in December 2007. Wesleigh celebrated her citizenship with an American flag given to her by her great-grandfather, a veteran of WWII.

Paulette D. Akers, '94, of Christiansburg, earned an MBA from Liberty University in 2006.



Wesleigh Cam Loos
from Vietnam

Rhonda L. Rigney, '94, '00, MBA, of Chatham, married Richard A. Reavis June 7, 2008. Rhonda is employed by the Apollo Group at Averett.

Mohan Narasimhan, '95, of Boston, Mass., sends regards to Averett alums. He follows cricket and tennis closely and is involved with the art of Tai Chi. He recently traveled to San Francisco to visit with relatives.

Melanie R. Thibodeaux Baiardo, '95, and **Tony Bairado, '92**, of Raleigh, N.C., moved back east from Phoenix, AZ, in June with their 1 year old daughter, Ruthanne. Tony is currently working as a Jets for Jobs pilot for Republic Airlines but is expected to return to Mainline U.S. Airways in April. Melanie is a certified professional coder and medical biller at Physician Billing Stations in Raleigh.

Cynthia Taft Dunaway Brittain, '96, of Richmond, is the contract center technical supervisor for the Virginia Retirement System. She also assists her husband, Gary, with his company, Dominion Photography.

Kelly Cross, '98, of Providence Forge, continues to work as an investigator for the Criminal Investigations Unit of the James City County Police Department. She is currently assigned to the Property Crimes Division. She was presented with an award for Excellent Work Performance last year. She solved a series of break-ins, arrested three subjects and obtained 41 warrants in relation to the cases. She continues to teach at the police academy and serves as a radKID instructor.

Regina Edwards Skammer, '98, of Richmond, and her husband, **John, '98**, are still living right outside of Richmond where John is a Student Minister at Mount Vernon Baptist Church, www.mvstudents.org. Regina stays home with their sons, Jacob and Benjamin.

'00s

Denise R. Adkins, '01, of Blacksburg, accepted a tenure-track position teaching psychology at Roanoke College.



Peter W. "Pete" Pettoni, '02, of Buckingham

Peter W. "Pete" Pettoni, '02, of Buckingham was deployed to Camp Victory, Baghdad, Iraq September 2006 - March 2007 as a liaison officer between the US ARMY Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM) and the Multi-National Corps - Iraq (MNC-I). He developed and coordinated logistics and maintenance support of intelligence systems and facilities in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). His duties took him to bases throughout Iraq and Afghanistan. He currently serves INSCOM as an acquisition and contracts manager at Ft Belvoir.

Chad Wright, '02, of Front Royal, and his wife, Kerri, have started a photography business, www.thewrightphotography.com/intor.html. Chad and Kerri have three children, Keagan, Asilinn and Caelan.

Meghan Beardsley '04, of Manassas, is a language arts teacher for the Prince William County Public Schools. She is married to **Michael Morse, '07**.

Jackson W. Fowlkes, '04, of Danville, is employed by Federal Express.

Crystal Stokes, '06, of Alexandria, is the stage manager for the Shakespeare Theatre Company in Washington, D.C.

Chris Manns, '07, of Spencer, spent the summer of 2007 at the Black Hills Playhouse in Custer, S.D. He is touring with the Children's Theatre of South Dakota as an actor and director.

Weddings

Judy Finch, '91, and Allen "Pete" Jones, August 2007

Rhonda Rigney, '94, '00, and Richard A. Reavis, June 7, 2008

Cynthia Taft Dunaway, '96, and Gary Brittain, September 23, 2007

Heather Buehrig, '03, and Marc Aycok, June 2, 2007

Jennifer Campbell, '03, and David Boswell, October 21, 2006

Matthew Gregory, '03, and Mary Jo Jones, October 20, 2007

Amanda "Mandy" James, '03, and **Robert "Danny" Bowles, '02**, July 9, 2005

Kristin Kelley Mooneyham, '03, and Jason Nix, March 22, 2007

Clinton Lemasters, '06, and **Stephanie Harburg, '06**, August 26, 2006

Births

Mark Bowman, '92, and **Terri Ferris Bowman '94**, a son, Christopher Allen, February 19, 2006

Amy Collins Licata, '93, and **Joseph H. Licata, '94**, a son, Adam Joseph, October 23, 2006

Robyn Marshall Miller, '97, a son, William Dylan, November 12, 2007

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Send us a picture of your little one wearing the new bib, and it
just may show up in the next issue of Averett Today.

Pictured: Sophia Maria Kotronis is the daughter of Tamara Ward Kotronis, '95, '98, MBA, and Stavros Kotronis. She is the granddaughter of Karen Ward, administrative assistant to the president, and little sister to Zoe Kotronis.



Births continued

Jeanne Ellison LaRocco, '98,
and Jason LaRocco, '98,
 a son, Rocson Betz

Carolyn Griffin Ferraro, '99,
and Michael P. Ferraro, '98,
 a daughter, Ashlyn Ruth,
 May 31, 2007

Katri Tynnenen Pavord, BS, '99, MAT, '05,
and David Pavord, '99,
 a daughter, Johanna Virginia,
 June 6, 2007

Melinda East Brightwell, BBA, '01, MBA,
'05, a daughter, Peyton Carys,
 July 23, 2007

Kimberley Ellis Allen, '02,
and James "J.R." Allen, '02,
 a daughter, Danner Elizabeth
 March 4, 2006

Amanda Woodward Barber, '03, and
Travis Barber, '03, a son, Keegan,
 May 29, 2008



Kelley Mooneyham Nix, '03,
and son William Garrett Nix

Kelley Mooneyham Nix, '03,
 and Jason Nix
 a son, William Garrett Nix
 May 19, 2008

Meghan Beardsley, '04,
and Michael Morse, '07,
 a son, Michael "Mikey" Jr.,
 March 31, 2007

Shelton L. Ricks, '06,
 a girl, Kennedy Alina,
 November 1, 2006

Memorium

Eva Myers Mylum Walton, '25,
 of Ringgold,
 October 3, 2007

Josephine Blair Reynolds, '31,
 of Danville,
 July 15, 2007

Eunice Lea Ferguson, '34,
 of Danville,
 November 20, 2007

Elva St. Clair Creedle Puryear, '34,
 of Clarksville,
 January 16, 2008

Catherine "Kitty" Wilson Moore, '35,
 of Wilmington, N.C.,
 July 7, 2007

Iva Shorter Eggleston Haraway, '36,
 of Brevard, N.C.,
 March 3, 2008

Mona “Christine” Pauley Patterson, ‘36,
of Floyd,
May 18, 2007

Marion Williams Watson, ‘39,
of Dallas, Texas,
April 9, 2008

Edna Meador Altice, ‘40,
of Roanoke,
January 25, 2007

Mary Louise Morris Miller, ‘41,
of Portsmouth,
January 30, 2008

Mary Pryor Hill, ‘42,
of Burlington, N.C.,
August 8, 2007

Phyllis Sheeran Lyon, ‘42,
of Dunedin, Fla.

Willie Walker Holley, ‘43,
of Danville,
May 29, 2008

Isabelle Bransford Marshall Ksanda, ‘43,
of Monroe, N.C.,
September 15, 2007

Margaret Ann Breiby Reinauer, ‘43,
of Mahwah, N.J.,
January 2, 2007

Catherine Hobson Bates, ‘45,
of El Cajon, Calif.,
June 8, 2007

Margaret Nash Long, ‘45,
of Newport News,
October 3, 2007

Edith L. Hawkins Kraft, ‘46,
of Warren County, N.C.,
November 23, 2007

Dorothy Orene Braswell, ‘47,
of Danville,
July 20, 2007

Maynard Lee Inman, ‘47,
of Roanoke,
March 20, 2008

William P. Paschal, ‘47,
of Ruffin, N.C.,
March 2, 2008

Doris Arrington Wilkinson, ‘47,
of Ringgold,
November 9, 2007

Billie Ault Kinder, ‘48,
of Stockton, Calif.,
August 4, 2006

Jean F. Johnson Diamont, ‘52,
of Los Altos, Calif.,
May 7, 2007

Betsy Garrett Myers, ‘53,
of Richmond,
March 19, 2008

Patricia J. Hartman Wubbenhorst, ‘54,
of Hillsborough, N.J.,
February 3, 2007

Ann K. Soloman Hays, ‘55,
of Inverness, Fla.,
July 12, 2007

Evelyn Stowe Amos, ‘56,
of Danville,
August 10, 2007

Freda Marlow Zollner, ‘60,
of Crestwood, Ky.,
February 27, 1960

Lynne Schaub Bowles, ‘61,
of Naples, Fla.,
September 16, 2007

Selma Greenspon Sax, ‘61,
of Atlanta, Ga.,
August 13, 2007

Texie Lee Shields Lester Herndon, ‘62,
of Danville,
September 8, 2007

Romine Rita Newsome, ‘62,
of Windsor,
January 28, 2008

Eva Maye Dillard Pendergraft, ‘62,
of Raleigh, N.C.,
June 25, 2007

Janet Yarbrough Lumpkin, ‘68,
of Danville,
February 25, 2008

**Mary Kathryn “Kathy” Hazelwood
Rorrer, ‘70,**
of Eden, N.C.,
September 27, 2007

Sarah Eldred Terry, ‘71,
of Farmville,
December 1, 2007

Nina Jean Freeze, ‘74,
of Danville,
October 27, 2007

Drucilla Walden Nightingale Lewis, ‘74,
of Ahoskie, N.C.,
August 21, 2007

**Robert “Bob” C. Laramore, ‘76, BS, ‘94
MBA,**
of Fredericksburg,
April 4, 2008

Linda Christofano Brockley, ‘82,
of Cambridge, Md.,
September 21, 2007

Judy A. Spainhour Cooper, ‘84,
of Danville,
August 17, 2007

Susan Carter Cox, ‘84,
of Torrington, Conn.,
November 23, 2007

Elizabeth “Libby” DeMerritt Cobb, ‘85,
of Martinsville,
July 31, 2007

Roosevelt A. Williams, ‘85,
of Kernersville, N.C.,
November 7, 2007

Pauline Coll, retired faculty,
of Danville,
August 23, 2008

John Dever, retired faculty,
of Louisville, Ky.,
July 4, 2008

Jack Hammesfahr, retired faculty,
of Chesapeake,
February 19, 2008

Charles Postelle Jr., retired faculty,
of Fernandina Beach, Fla.
August 10, 2008

Alumna Shares Notes from Visit with Beloved Professors

by Gonzalee Ford, '58

Editor's Note: We are saddened to report that faculty emerita Pauline Coll passed away Aug. 23, as this issue was going to press. This article remains as a tribute to Ms. Coll's Averett legacy.

Those of you who attended Averett between 1940 and 1970 will remember two outstanding faculty members, Pauline Coll and Dr. Margaret Lanham. Ms. Coll turned 94 in December 2007, and Dr. Lanham is just a year and a half behind.

When I was a student, Ms. Coll was the dean of students; and Dr. Lanham was my English professor—the one who insisted we read Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* in the original Olde English, which may as well have been Latin to most of us. I recently had the opportunity to visit these ladies in their Danville home. I learned a few things about this feisty pair you didn't already know.

Ms. Coll was born in Oklahoma in 1913. Her father was a lawyer who had met her mother at Valparaiso University in Indiana. Thanks in part to the influence of an inspirational high school French teacher, she graduated from Oklahoma College for Women in 1934 with a major in French and a minor in Spanish. She went on to earn a master's degree in French from the University of Oklahoma and began her career as a high school French and Spanish teacher.

Dr. Lanham was born in 1915 in Spartanburg, S.C. Her father was a lawyer and her mother was a graduate of Bryn Mawr. Dr. Lanham graduated third in a high school class of 200. She earned a bachelor's degree in English and French from Converse College and her master's and Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University. Her first teaching job was at a country high school—"teaching things I didn't even know."

Ms. Coll and Dr. Lanham met at Averett and began what would be a long friendship. Dr. Lanham was hired in 1943 and Ms. Coll arrived in 1946. They both laugh as they recall a starting salary of around \$1,000 a year plus a room at a local boarding house.

They both retired from Averett in 1978. Dr. Lanham returned to Averett to earn a bachelor's degree in religion but "being a student with my students" did not appeal to Ms. Coll.

They both told me that if they had their lives to live over again they would teach at Averett—"at least the Averett we knew then." They both loved teaching and learning—especially learning from their students. And speaking as one of their students, I loved learning from them.



Ms. Pauline Coll



Dr. Margaret Lanham



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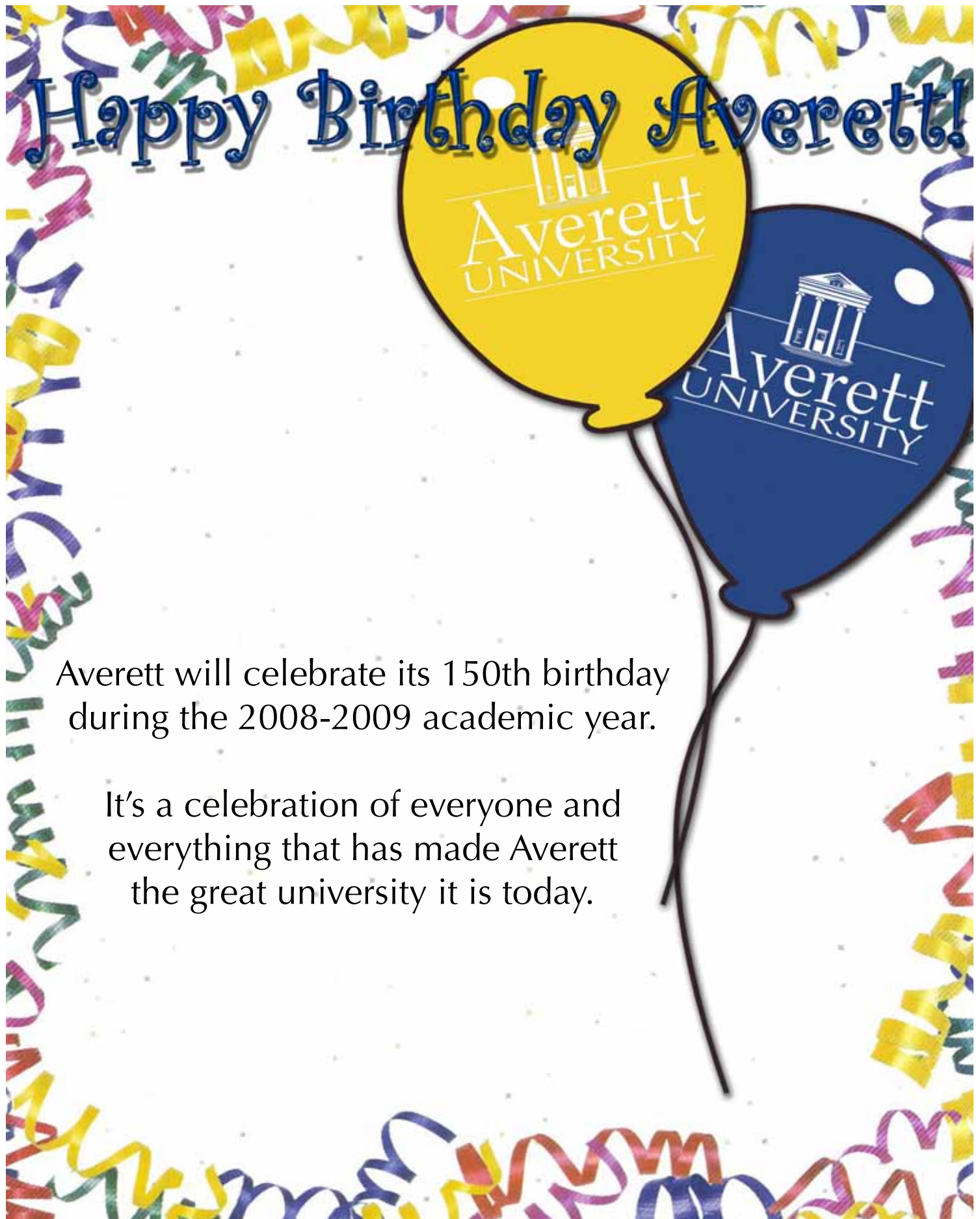
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Meet our new president, Dr. Tiffany Franks.

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Activities are planned for the entire family.

Register online: <http://alumni.averett.edu/homecoming08>


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