

# St. Andrews by the Lake

Alumni Newsletter



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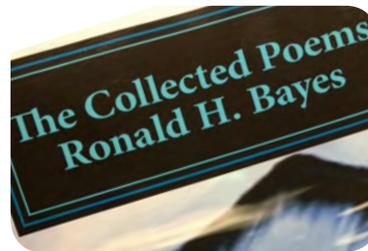
"St. Andrews, Facebook and Full Moons" by Lindsay Thompson '78

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## Welcome Back to School!

Welcome to the "back to school" issue of our alumni newsletter. By the time you read this, student athletes, RAs and Orientation Leaders will have arrived on campus. They'll be followed by the Pipe Band, First Year Experience student assistants, and our Marshals. Then comes the arrival of international students, and Orientation begins. The first day of the academic term is Monday, August 24th.

We have new faculty members:

Alejandra Rodriguez Villar comes to St. Andrews as Instructor of Foreign Languages. She is a Ph.D candidate at Duke University in the Romance Studies Department.

Julia O'Grady, who received her Ph.D from the Department Of Communication at UNC-Chapel Hill, is our new Visiting Assistant Professor of Communications.

Cathy Jacobs, visiting Faculty in Business, is a licensed financial advisor who has worked both in general

accounting and human resources.

Also new to St. Andrews this summer is alumna Robin Ring Lea '83. A former school principal in Moore County, NC, Robin is the Director for the Center for Academic Success.

Finally, we have a new Communications Director, Misty McMillan. She received her BS from Liberty University and has a 20-year career in design and communications.

We know, we know....the \$64,000

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**MBA Classes Begin**

Classes restart on  
Monday, August 24.  
It's not too late to register!

**John Calvin McNair Lecture  
on Science & Theology**

Tuesday, Sept. 8, 6:00 p.m. Dinner  
& 7:00 p.m. Lecture Belk Main room.  
Speaker Dr. Raymond Barfield.  
RSVP [weaverll@sa.edu](mailto:weaverll@sa.edu) or 910-277-5240

**Open Houses**

Oct. 16 & 17- Equine Auditions  
Nov. 21 - Fall General  
Feb. 20 - KNIGHT Life Day  
March 19- Spring General

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

## St. Andrews, Facebook and Full Moons

by Lindsay Thompson '78

We asked Lin to expand on a Facebook post he wrote in March, 2015, and think you will enjoy reading his ruminations below.

When I decided to attend St. Andrews 41 years ago, most of my friends asked, "Why?" It was a fair question. SA wasn't enormous. It wasn't famous. It wasn't even old. The campus trees were still growing.

Worse, it had no ACC teams.

Neighbors and folks at church wondered, quietly, how I'd struck out as a Morehead and Angier B. Duke Scholar finalist. "Bless his heart, he just must not have had any better choices left." St. Andrews was the raffish stepchild of Presbyterian higher education in the Carolinas: the students were all pothead Yankees; the faculty, all Communists; the male students had longer hair than the females ones. And Professor Leslie Bullock said, "Come on down, the water's fine." Having taught my mother at Flora Mac, he declared me his first grandchild.

"Sounds perfect," I said.

This must have seemed a counterintuitive response. I arrived in Laurinburg shortly after the Nixon resignation, and just before the Ford pardon. Finding no College Republican group ("Duh!" said Phil Bradley '75) I canvassed, solo, for the GOP ticket as the November electoral tsunami loomed.

The results were not pretty. It took me 29 more years to realize I didn't belong with that lot any more.

I wasn't interested in a school where I could coast for four years, untroubled by a single disagreeable or challenging idea. I wanted to know what I didn't know, and read what I hadn't read. Then I could decide if I agreed with it, or not. I

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## CLASS NOTES...

Our sympathy is extended to **Dr. Doris Dunn Smith '55** whose husband Ralph Smith passed away on July 20, 2015.

**Rooney Coffman '68** was the recipient of the National Association of Scientific Manager of the year award, the highest honor given by the NAOSMM. Coffman, Director of Logistics at St. Andrews, has served the University for over 45 years.

**Jane Cline Wellford '71** will retire from Elon University in May, 2016, ending her 40-year career as Professor of Dance in the Performing Arts Department. She is also a regular choreographer for the Performing Arts Department concerts and is Academic Advisor for DanceWorks. Her book, *Moving Liturgy: Dance in Christian Worship*, will be published in the spring of 2016.

**Cristine Weatherspoon '94** will receive her Masters degree in Social Work from UNC-Pembroke in December.

**Rachel Hoag '04** completed coursework for her Ph.D. in British Literature at West Virginia University this past May. She has been invited to present a paper on depictions of neoliberal economic systems in spy fiction at a conference in London this September sponsored by the Humanities Research Centre at the University of Warwick.

**Emily Threlkeld Merriweather, '09**, married Logan Merriweather at San Francisco City Hall on May 26, 2015. Emily also recently started a job with Rice University's School of Literacy and Culture department, which focuses on early literacy training for teachers in the Houston area.

**Brittany Roberts Monroe '12** and **Demetrius Monroe '13** were married in January, 2014. Their daughter, Carma, was born in March, 2015.

# An Appreciation of Vivian Morrison Burke Wyer

By Hazel McLean Hubbard '58

The Class of 1958 lost a beloved friend and classmate when Vivian Morrison Burke Wyer passed away on May 22 in Liverpool, Nova Scotia. A Scottish dancer and bagpiper during her college years, Vivian sparked and stimulated strong interest in the Scottish heritage of Flora Macdonald and of many Scottish folks living in surrounding communities.

A native of Englishtown, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, Vivian grew up in a region steeped in Gaelic traditions, and began her Highland dancing career at age 7 and her piping career at age 12. In 1954 she was recruited to attend Flora Macdonald College on a scholarship. There she became the Highland dancing instructor, and represented the College throughout the region dancing, playing the pipes and singing in Gaelic at events. She was also instrumental in organizing the area's first Highland Games. She graduated with a B.S. in Business in 1958.

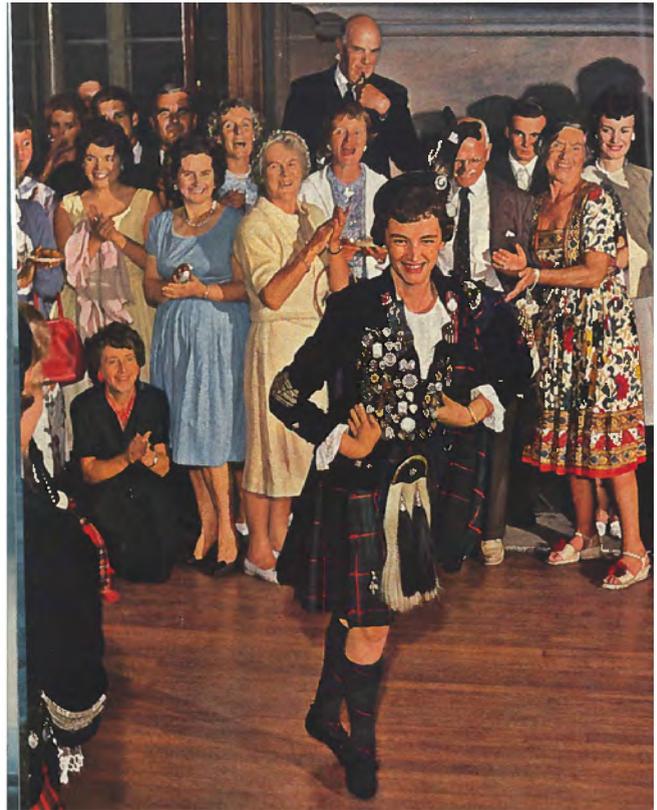
One of Vivian's favorite career highlights included piping on the White House Lawn during the 1953 Easter Egg Hunt, and piping for the official opening of the Canso Causeway linking Cape Breton to the Nova Scotia mainland in 1955. One of the premier dancers of her day, Vivian won almost 100 prizes including Cape Breton and Nova Scotia championships. Her dancing career earned her a picture in the June 1964 issue of National Geographic Magazine.

During Vivian's college years she performed as a dancer and piper for the first Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, toured with the North Carolina Symphony, and piped for Adlai Stevenson when he visited Flora Macdonald. Vivian was always pleased with the

“ I never tired of watching her. ”

way her talents were enjoyed by audiences at these performances, many of whom had never heard a piper play, nor witnessed Scottish dances.

Over the course of Vivian's teaching career, she taught Business, Math, Consumer Education and Law. She held teaching positions at Acadia University, Halifax Community College, and at several high schools in the



**Kilts swirl in a Highland fling as dancer and piper perform at the Beinn Bhreagh supper party. *National Geographic*, June 1964. Photographer Winfield Parks.**

Liverpool area. She retired from teaching in 1996.

In March, 2008, Vivian traveled back to North Carolina to attend the National Scottish Heritage Symposium Awards Banquet. She was presented with the Flora Macdonald Award and Medallion for her outstanding contribution to Scottish arts.

Classmates and friends of Vivian's at FMC consistently remember her as a vibrant, friendly person with a great smile and a gentle voice, always calm and assuring us that "all will be well, yes, all will be well." Teaching the Highland fling to classmates who struggled to develop and refine the art of the dance, Vivian was the perfect instructor, demonstrating with her graceful steps and patiently offering encouragement. Playing the bagpipe and dancing for May Day and other festivities were significant contributions Vivian made to campus life. As

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### Alumni Council

Friday, Oct. 2 and Saturday, Oct. 3. We are looking forward to having this group on campus!



### The Scotland County Highland Games

Saturday, Oct. 3 at the John Blue House in Laurinburg. The Games immerse you into Scottish Heritage and Pipe Band competition!



### Alumni Weekend 2016

Save the date... April 15-17. Join your classmates, friends and professors on campus. We are already making plans!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### “St. Andrews” Continued from Page 2

liked it when I heard Professor Neal Bushoven tell my freshman Opening Convocation his speech was intended “to provoke and irritate.” I took that calling to heart editing *The Lance* for 2 years, considering myself the Harold Stassen of campus politics.

It was no surprise, then, when Neal Bushoven wrote, in the margin of one of my essays, “I am amazed to find The Last Living Whig in my class.” Twenty years later, after the fall of Communism, I sent him a postcard: “Revolution’s over. My side won.”

A decade later, a new millennium, and some of St. Andrews’ “time-released learning,” I guess, had worked its spell: I changed my party registration. I was bemused, if not entirely surprised, to meet some of my formerly oh-so-politically-correct classmates headed the other way in their journey. Ron Crossley was right: a St. Andrews education “should make you comfortable with ambiguity.”

Forty years on, life and time have worn down some of my spikier turns of mind, and St. Andrews is still my yardstick. The genius of the place was that I was just another character in a school filled with them, and I learned all kinds of things I wouldn’t have had I chosen a place that played to my preconceptions. An easy intellectual ride would have been just that: easy. Unchallenging. And quickly outdated.

St. Andrews has always celebrated the unconventional, the idea whose time is, well...sometime. From Dean Davidson’s zeal for Frank Lloyd Wright’s Usonian design theory homes for a distinctly American landscape, free of the old conventions to Bucky Fuller, John Cage, and the rest of the Black Mountain geniuses-in-progress who blew through St. Andrews in 1974, the school on the lake has always been a place to embrace the future-- not as an end-

less collection of fads and whimsies, but as the eternal lot of human life: one best navigated with a core set of values and habits of mind.

What triggered this was reading an appreciation by Jon Nixon of the under-appreciated public intellectual Hannah Arendt called “Hannah Arendt: Thinking Versus Evil” on the website Times Higher Education. I think she would have liked St. Andrews:

“St. Andrews is still my yardstick.”

“Arendt’s work highlights the need for pedagogical approaches that recognize difference and diversity, that challenge and question, stimulate and provoke; cur-

riculum frameworks that are open and inter-connective, flexible and responsive, negotiable and provisional; and educational purposes that focus on dispositions and qualities, on human flourishing, and on the fulfillment of individual potential. Above all, it reminds us that education is a public good: that the more we participate in it, the greater its potential contribution to the well-being of society as a whole and the vibrancy of the body politic. Against those who view education as a commodity to be bought and sold for private gain, Arendt insists that it is grounded in our shared capacity to think—and that to think is to think together.”

That’s the value of a St. Andrews education. So it was for me, forty years ago. So may it always be at St. Andrews.

Now, summoned by the spirit of Marion Cannon, let us all go outside and howl at the moon.

*Lindsay Thompson (Politics, 1978), holds degrees in philosophy, politics and economics from Oxford University and law from Lewis & Clark College. He was St. Andrews Alumni Association president in 1997-98, and shared the Ethel N. Fortner Writer and Community Award in 2006. Lindsay is the owner of Henry Bemis Books, an Internet rare and collectible book sales and consulting firm, in Charlotte. ↻*

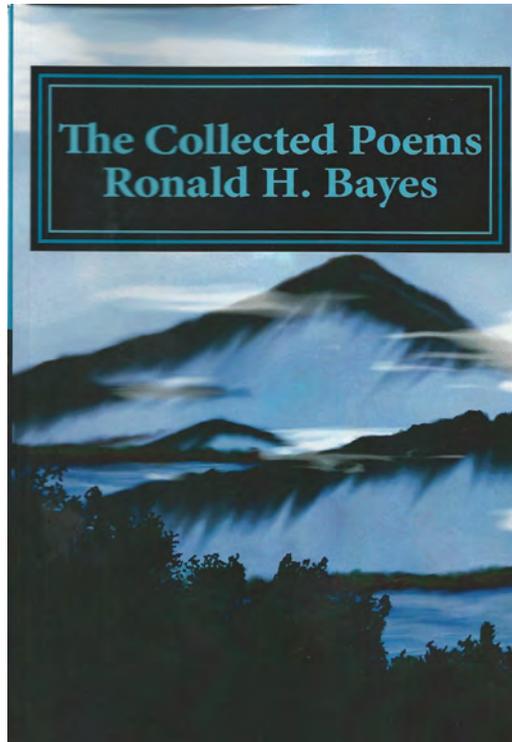
## St. Andrews University Press Publishes *The Collected Poems of Ronald H. Bayes*

Great news! The St. Andrews Press has released Ron Bayes' *Collected Poems* (718 pages in all!) edited by long-time friend of St. Andrews, Joseph Bathanti, and our own Ted Wojtasik. To celebrate the publication of the book, there will be a special Writers' Forum on Thursday, September 17, in the Morris Morgan Entertainment Center of Scotia Village in Laurinburg at 7:00 p.m.

This collection of poetry will be available in print through the St. Andrews University Press and Amazon.com and as an e-book through Amazon.com. The print version is \$24.99, and the digital version is \$9.99. Both the print and digital versions contain an index of titles and first lines. The digital version allows the reader to jump to any poem anywhere in the collection from the table of contents or the index.

Ronald H. Bayes is the Emeritus Writer-in-Residence and the Emeritus Distinguished Professor of Literature and Creative Writing at St. Andrews. Bayes is not only a poet but also the founding editor of the St. Andrews College Press in 1970, so we will be celebrating Ron's work as well as the 45th anniversary of the longest-running small press in the United States.

In 1989 Bayes received the North Carolina Award for Literature, the state's highest civilian award, presented by Governor James G. Martin. In 2002 the North Carolina Writers' Network established its Lifetime Achievement Award for Litera-



ture, named after Ronald H. Bayes, and presented the inaugural award to him. He was inducted into the North Carolina Literary Hall of Fame in 2014.

Fred Chappell, a former North Carolina Poet Laureate, claims: "Few poets have written so broadly and intensively of our modern culture as Ronald Bayes has done. His gift for wry observation, for intra-disciplinary association, and for witty commentary is almost unmatched in our time. He sees the world afresh and speaks to it and of it familiarly—even cheekily. We owe him ebullient thanks." ♡

### Welcome Continued from Page 1

question is "How large is the freshman class this fall?" Because of St. Andrews' rolling admissions policy, international students and transfer students, we don't have the exact number just yet. I'm sure President Paul Baldasare will be delighted to share this information with you when everyone returns to campus this fall.

It's a time for looking forward at St. Andrews as we prepare for the incoming first-year students, and welcome new students to the MBA program. We hope you will continue to keep in touch with us through our newsletter, our Facebook pages, and by supporting St. Andrews financially. Visit the campus! And be sure to put Alumni Weekend, April 15 – 17, 2016, on your calendar.

Cordially,

Ellen Thompson '78  
Director of Alumni Relations

## Betsy Dendy Had a Great Summer Adventure

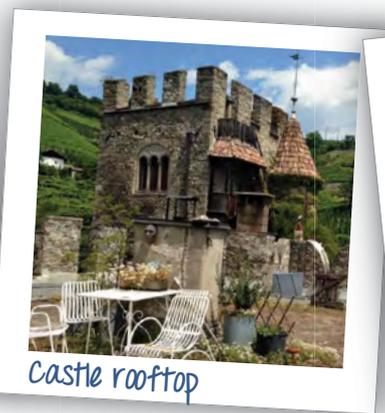
“I had the wonderful opportunity to spend part of my summer in Italy. This was my first time back to Brunnenburg Castle since I was there with a student group in the fall of 2011. I attended my first Ezra Pound International Conference, focused this year on “Ezra Pound and the Green World.” The confer-

ence was hosted at Brunnenburg and coordinated with special events for the 90th birthday of Mary de Rachewiltz. I was pleased that Ted Wojtasik and I could both be there to represent St. Andrews for this memorable occasion.”

—Betsy Dendy



Brunnenburg Castle



Castle rooftop



90th birthday presentation

### Vivian Continued from Page 3

one friend expressed: “I always admired her amazing ability, and the ease and grace with which she presented her performances. I never tired of watching her.”

**Joy Stalvey Barefoot**, a '58 classmate, expressed her memories of Vivian: “To have Vivian come into our class and share the journey with us was a rare privilege indeed. She brought a most unusual talent, so tied to the ancestry of the maiden, Flora Macdonald, for whom the college was named.

**Elise Williams Blackwell** '58 adds to Joy's recollections describing “Vivian's graceful movements as she danced the Sword Dance, feet never touching sword and scabbard crossed on the floor, dancing around them with arms bent to the side and upward, thumbs and middle finger touching...such poise and beauty, a joy to behold.” Writing for the 45th reunion book of the '58 class in 2003, Vivian recalled her favorite memories of Flora Macdonald College life: family-style meals in the dining hall, the caring and friendly classmates, administration and staff, May Day celebrations, student council meetings, and especially piping for Adlai Stevenson her freshman year. Vivian also remembered that she had difficulty finding

a place inside the FMC building to practice piping. Students and faculty wanted to hear her play, she recalled, but not hear her practice!

In recognition of Vivian's significant place in the Flora Macdonald and St. Andrews' history of Scottish dancing and piping, a piper scholarship is being established in her memory. The scholarship will be awarded first in 2016. Vivian's classmates are initially funding the scholarship, with Bill Caudill continuing to direct its growth and application. All alumni are encouraged to share their love of piping and their appreciation of Vivian's outstanding influence through The Vivian Morrison 1958 Piper Scholarship. ♡

“Thirty years ago, St. Andrews Presbyterian College was called “a bold experiment in higher education.” Now well established as a North Carolina college with a model curriculum, we're no longer an experiment. But we still hold on to some bold—even radical—ideas. We believe that students can think for themselves. That living well is more important than living wealthy. And that “experience” doesn't happen by decree or accident, but by creative interaction.”

Excerpt from the 1991 View Book.



## In Memoriam

**Harriet Weaver Fredericksen '43**, a Flora Macdonald alumna, died July 25, 2015 in Davidson, NC.

**Mary Anna Huntley Vinson Boger '45** died August 7, 2015. She graduated from Flora Macdonald with a degree in History and English.

**Dorothy "Dot" Williams Curtis** died on July 19, 2015 in Jamestown, NC. She was a member of the Flora Macdonald Class of 1950.

**Yvonne Brice McMahan '54** of Lone Grove, OK died on August 4, 2015 at Scotia Village in Laurinburg.

**Elaine Gasque Cain '68** died February 5, 2010 in Florence, SC.

**Joseph (Joe) E. Denney '70** died on March 19, 2015.

**Vicki Jane McCue '85** died on April 13, 2007 in Rockford, IL.

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by the Lake  
Alumni Newsletter



1700 Dogwood Mile, Laurinburg, NC 28352

St. Andrews by the Lake is a publication of the Alumni and Development Office of St. Andrews University. We welcome your feedback and ideas for future newsletters.

To contact the Alumni Office or for information on giving to St. Andrews, call Ellen Thompson at 910-277-5665 or email [thompsonje@sa.edu](mailto:thompsonje@sa.edu).



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