

St. Andrews by the Lake

Alumni Newsletter



March - April
2014

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Welcome to our March-April issue of St. Andrews by the Lake. We are looking forward to the coming of Spring, warmer weather, and Alumni Weekend, 2014.

This issue previews a few new events happening at this year's Alumni Weekend. We are excited to tell you about a reunion of the University's long-lived theatre group, the Highland Players. Whether you acted in a musical or play, painted scenery, built sets or ran the lighting during your time at SA, you're invited back to celebrate a theatre troupe that had its beginnings at Flora Macdonald College in the 1940s.

Today we are sharing some history of Theater at St. Andrews, along with the story of one alumna and Highland Player whose legacy continues today in the form of the Sylvia Smith Lang Scholarship.

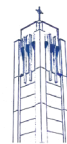
Another new addition to Alumni Weekend is our audio archive project, Lakeside Chat. Inspired by NPR's StoryCorps, we want to create a record of some of St. Andrews' unique history, as only can be told by alumni, current and former faculty and friends of the University. We'll be in the Sinclair Dining Room just off the cafeteria on Saturday afternoon from 1:00 until 3:00 to record our first interviews. If you're interested in taking part in this fun project, email alumni@sapc.edu to schedule a time on Saturday, April 12.

Also, we encourage you to participate in an hour-long forum with some current students in Vardell on Saturday afternoon. The topic will be "On Creating Community". This is your chance to engage with current students and share with them the sense of community you recall from your time at St. Andrews, what it means to you today, and hear their thoughts on the SA of 2014.

Finally, we ask you to let us know you're coming to campus! Register here for Alumni Weekend, April 11-12 by [clicking here](#).

Join us as we honor both Pete Peery '69 and Professor Dick Prust on Friday evening before we start the party in Vardell with a fantastic alumni art and photography exhibit. It's going to be great to see you!

Ellen Thompson '78
Director of Alumni Relations



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THE SYLVIA SMITH LANG SCHOLARSHIP:

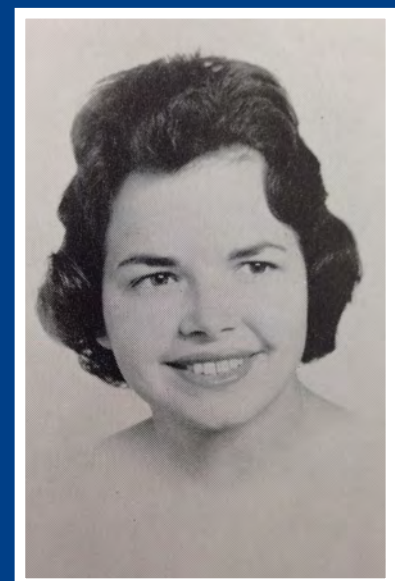
A Wonderful Way to Continue the Spirit of Giving at St. Andrews

In December, 2013 Dr. C. Max Lang endowed St. Andrews with \$50,000 to fund a scholarship in his wife's memory. Sylvia Smith Lang was a member of the Class of 1962, the first graduating class of St. Andrews. She spent the first three years of her college career at Flora Macdonald. A native of Ellerbe, NC, Mrs. Lang lived with her husband in Hummelstown, PA. She died in June, 2010.

This scholarship will be awarded yearly to an incoming student who exhibits a sound scholastic record as evidenced by ranking in the top 25% of the recipient's high school and/or university class and will also be based on financial need.

At St. Andrews, Sylvia served on the Granville Dorm Council; she was a member of the Highland Players during her years at both Flora Mac and St. Andrews. (See the article about the history of the Highland Players on page 6.)

Sylvia's future husband, Dr. Max Lang, entered veterinary school in 1957. In his fourth year, he received a draft notice. Although he received a deferment, Dr. Lang says, "A lady at the draft board said, the day you graduate, you'll get another notice. Seeing the handwriting on the wall, I applied for a commission in both the Air Force and Army." He received commissions in both, but chose the Army. He received orders to go to the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Washington, D.C., his first exposure to laboratory animal medicine. ... [Cont'd on page 3](#)



The 2014 Fortner-Ragan Awards

The 2014 Fortner-Ragan Awards were presented at St. Andrews University on February 20. Created in 1986 to honor Ethel N. Fortner, who was a friend to writers and a frequent contributor to the *St. Andrews Review*, the Fortner Award has been given to ardent supporters of the arts in communities ranging from journalists to activists to publishers. This year's Fortner award recipient was Elizabeth Hudson, the editor-in-chief of *Our State Magazine*.

A native North Carolinian, Hudson began her publishing career in 1997 at *Our State Magazine* answering phones in the circulation department before moving to the editorial department. She held various positions before becoming the editor-in-chief in 2009.

Under her leadership, the magazine's paid circulation has increased more than 30 percent. In 2011 and 2012, *Our State* won Gold Eddies for "Best Issue" of a regional magazine in the country, a top honor from *FOLIO: Magazine*, the magazine industry's leading publication recognizing editorial excellence.

Wish you were here: A Collection of Essays from the editor of Our State Magazine was published in 2013 to highlight Hudson's essay style as seen in the editor's note found in each issue of the magazine.

Rhiannon Giddens, co-founding member of Grammy Award-winning country, blues and old-time music trio Carolina Chocolate Drops, was presented the 2014 Sam Ragan Fine Arts Award from St. Andrews University. The Sam Ragan Award was created in 1981 to honor Samuel Talmadge Ragan, North Carolina's first Secretary of Cultural Resources. For 20 years, Ragan edited the *News & Observer* in Raleigh, and was owner and editor of *The Pilot* in Southern Pines until his death in 1996. Sam Ragan also authored six award-winning volumes of poetry as well as works of non-fiction. The Ragan Award is presented annually to an individual for outstanding contributions to the Fine Arts in North Carolina.

A Greensboro native, Giddens sang with family in her youth, but initially planned to be a quantum physicist. She attended the North Carolina School of Science and Math before a senior year trip to choral camp convinced her that music was her true calling. She subsequently attended the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and the music school at the University of North Carolina Greensboro. There she performed as a lyric coloratura soprano. It was during a break from that work that she discovered the banjo.

Folklorist and singer Margaret Bennett describes Giddens as "a showstopper—not only for her glorious voice but also for her incredible versatility. She ranges across many styles and genres, and is equally at ease signing opera, blues, gospel and Gaelic or whatever the moment takes."

In 2013, Giddens was part of the lineup for "Another Day, Another Time: Celebrating the Music of *Inside Llewyn Davis*", a special concert event at in New York City. Her performance was called the "concert's real head turner" by the New York Times.



Rhiannon Giddens of the Carolina Chocolate Drops

THE SYLVIA SMITH LANG SCHOLARSHIP:

A Wonderful Way to Continue the Spirit of Giving at St. Andrews

Cont'd from p.1 ... In addition to caring for research animals, Dr. Lang ran a VIP veterinary clinic. He treated President Kennedy's dog Pushinka, (Russian for "Fluffy"), a gift from Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev to Caroline Kennedy. Pushinka was one of the first Soviet space dogs who returned to Earth. She was brought to Walter Reed by an entourage of the Secret Service, examined, frisked for hidden poison or transmitters, x-rayed, and cleared to be welcomed into the Kennedy family. Later, Caroline Kennedy's Welsh Terrier Charlie arrived by limousine with the usual Secret Service escort for treatment at Walter Reed. Dr. Lang also treated the pets of various Kennedy cabinet members, including the Dalmatians belonging to the Assistant Secretary of Defense.

A decision to make caring for animals used in research a career led Dr. Lang to Wake Forest University in 1963, after his stint in the Army ended. He met the woman he would marry during a blind date arranged by one of Sylvia's St. Andrews classmates, [Shirley Reynolds Hutchens](#), who was working as a med tech in Dr. Lang's department at Wake Forest.

Sylvia accepted a teaching position in Winston-Salem after graduating from St. Andrews. In three years of teaching elementary school, she taught 1st, 3rd and 5th graders. When she met Max Lang, her roommates in the garage apartment where she lived were two other St. Andrews alumna— now [Betty Ruth Barker Wilkerson](#) and [Jerrie Johnson Greene](#). According to Dr. Lang, Sylvia Smith was not too anxious to meet this veterinarian who was a "Northerner." They were married in January of 1965.

The Langs moved to Hershey, PA in June of 1966 when Dr. Lang accepted the position as Chair of Comparative Medicine. At the same time he was the first faculty appointment in the new College of Medicine of The Milton S. Hershey Medical Center at Pennsylvania State University. Since both he and Sylvia had grown up on farms, they found a tract of land and built a home there. Their three children, Karen, John, and Susan, were all born in Hershey.

Sylvia was active in many medical center and community activities, taught Sunday School, and was an elder at Derry Presbyterian Church. Her outlook on life was typified by her support of Dr. Lang, however, she did not hesitate to exert her own opinions, leadership and guidance.

We are very grateful to Dr. Lang for creating the scholarship fund in his wife's honor and memory. This is one of many ways to make a long lasting impact on future students at St. Andrews. The continued support from alumni and friends is essential to securing the future of the University.



Sylvia Smith Lang (bottom left) and Granville Dorm Council, 1962

Upcoming Events

Will it Finally Happen?

After two snowed-out attempts at an Alumni gathering in Atlanta, we hope to see lots of our Atlanta area friends at "Third Time's the Charm", on Wednesday, [March 19](#). Join us for drinks and hors d'oeuvres at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Debbie and Jerry Miller at 1721 Noble Drive, NE, Atlanta, 30306. You'll see some old friends and enjoy a University update from President Paul Baldasare.

RSVP to Ellen Thompson: thompsonje@sapc.edu



Religion and Science Roundtable on March 18, 2014

The second lecture of this year's series will be given by Larry Taunton, Executive Director of The Fixed Point Foundation in Birmingham, Alabama. Mr. Taunton is a freelance columnist and author of the book *The Grace Effect*, which provides a glimpse of what the world would look like without the influence of Christianity. In his role as a Christian apologist, Taunton has engaged some of the world's most vociferous critics of Christianity, including the late Christopher Hitchens and Richard Dawkins.

The lecture in Belk Main Lounge will follow dinner at 6:00 p.m. Please join us if you are in the area.

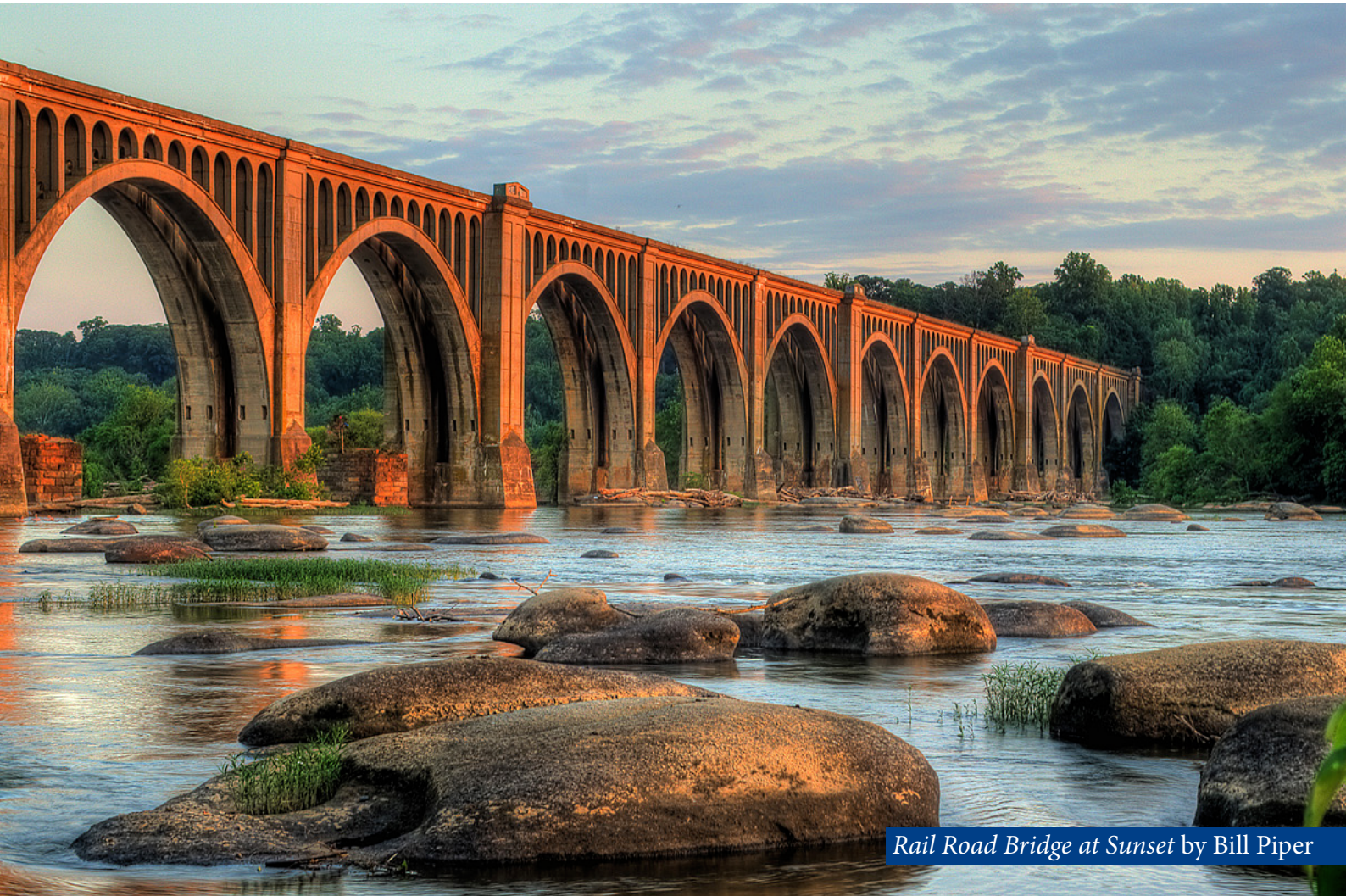
RSVP to Lori Weaver at weaverll@sapc.edu, by March 11

Richmond Area Alumni Event

Join us on Thursday, [March 27, at 6:30 p.m.](#) as St. Andrews alumni get together at the home of Jane and Jim Rothrock '71. We will have plenty of good food and drinks. While we enjoy each other's company, President Paul Baldasare will share news of what's happening at St. Andrews these days.

If you live in the Richmond area and have not yet received an invitation, or if you would like to RSVP, please email Ellen Thompson.

RSVP to Ellen Thompson: thompsonje@sapc.edu



Rail Road Bridge at Sunset by Bill Piper

We can't wait for Alumni Weekend 2014!

Did you receive your official invitation in the mail? Hope you will make plans now to be on campus April 11-12!

Watch the video! [Click here](#)

If you haven't already, to register online [click here](#)

[Click here](#) for the guide to accommodations in the Laurinburg area.

For those of you who will be in town on Friday, April 11th, the SAU Wrestling Team is hosting a fundraising golf tournament open to all alumni at Deercroft Golf & Country Club in Wagram, NC. Contact Coach Joe Baranik @ [910-277-5012](tel:910-277-5012) or email baranikjj@sapc.edu.

Highland Players Reunion at Alumni Weekend

On Saturday of Alumni Weekend 2014, part of our celebration of the Humanities will be a reunion of members of the Highland Players, the drama club which had its origins at Flora Macdonald College and was continued when St. Andrews opened in 1961.

In the first few years of the school, there were as many as 100 members of the Highland Players. Many of those students were honor members. To qualify for membership at that time, a student had to work 40 hours in the Theater department, with 10 of those being outside of acting. To be an honor member, a student had to work 120 hours in the department over 3 consecutive semesters.

Dr. Arthur McDonald was hired for the 1962-1963 school year to head up the Theater Arts department. The first production ever performed at St. Andrews was *Our Town*, in 1962. Other highlights from the 1960s include *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *The Fantasticks*, *The Boy Friend* and *Waiting for Godot*.



West Side Story, October, 1969

McDonald went on to serve the longest tenure in theater at St. Andrews; he left in 1983 to chair the Division of Fine Arts at the College of Charleston. Over the years, many alumni who studied under McDonald have expressed their gratitude for his guidance and teaching. Two notable graduates from the '60s are **William Amos Abrams** of Raleigh, NC and **Saax Bradbury** of New Bern, NC, both of whom graduated in 1965.

Mr. Abrams went on to receive a MFA from the Yale School of Drama in 1968. During his professional career he worked as both an actor and a casting director on and off Broadway. His Broadway credits include casting Angela Lansbury in the revival of *Gypsy* (London & New York), *Saturday, Sunday and Monday*, and *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*. He worked with Barry M. Brown, Fritz Holt, and was later the associate producer for RKO/Nederlander Productions. In 1986, Amos passed away after a brave battle with cancer. At the time of his death, he was serving as Director of Road Resources for the League of American Theatres and Producers. Abrams bequeathed over 680 records of musicals, memorabilia and autographed books and posters to St. Andrews.

After graduating from St. Andrews, Saax Bradbury received an MFA in acting from The Neighborhood Playhouse in New York City. She also performed in many regional and off-Broadway theaters, including the National Shakespeare Company. On Broadway, Bradbury was Angela Lansbury's stand-in for the New York City revival of *Gypsy*; she was an understudy in *Saturday, Sunday and Monday*; and was Dustin Hoffman's assistant in *All Over Town*. Arthur Laurents, the playwright of *Gypsy*, funded her studies at London's Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts. ... [Cont'd on page 9](#)

Class Notes

Jackie Dove-Miller '73 published her first book of poetry in 2013 and was named Franklin County, North Carolina's Artist of the Year.

Marty Martin, JD MPA '74 continues his legal practice advising and training nonprofit organizations. Recently he completed his 200th presentation, and is a Boardsource Certified Governance Trainer. For the academic year 2013-14, he serves as the lecturer for the "Capstone Seminar in Nonprofit Studies" on behalf of the North Carolina State University Institute for Nonprofits, Raleigh, NC. In June of 2014 he will complete a three-year appointment as a member of the IRS Advisory Committee for Tax Exempt and Government Entities ("ACT") and Exempt Organization subcommittee which advises senior IRS leadership on issues that affect nonprofit organizations and related law and tax policy.

Deborah Coffin '78 is a finalist for a 2014-2015 grant from the presidentially-appointed J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, which makes decisions on Fulbright awards. Congratulations to Debbie and best wishes going forward.

Mark Scholl '83 recently accepted an Associate Professor position in the Counselor Education Department at Wake Forest University. A Psychology major at St. Andrews, Mark found his studies here to be a great experience, and his professors very encouraging to his continuing his counseling and psychology studies at a graduate level.

Lori Dickey Dusenberry '87 and **Greg Dusenberry '92** opened an eco-friendly bed & breakfast in Virginia 5 years ago. They have worked hard, won a few accolades over the past several years, and even had several St. Andrews alums come and visit. The Inn at Tabbs Creek in Port Haywood, Virginia, has been selected as a Top 10 U.S. B & B by BedandBreakfast.com. The Inn is also a member of the website's Diamond Collection™, an exclusive group of professionally inspected and guest-reviewed luxury inns.

Eric Lien '89 was recently elected to the office of president of the European Department of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA). In an induction ceremony held at the AUSA council of trustees meeting in Arlington, VA on January 27, Eric assumed the responsibility for leading the organization in Europe and the Middle East for the next five years. Eric is based near Frankfurt, Germany and markets Sky Watch unmanned aerial systems to DOD, other government users and precision agriculture clients.

Dan Dupree '07 worked as an instructor and coach at Camden Military Academy in South Carolina after graduation from St. Andrews. After moving to Atlanta in 2011, he worked at the Hennessy Lexus dealership in Duluth, GA and last summer transitioned to a position with the start-up SimplePart in Decatur, GA, an online solution for automobile parts sales for dealerships across the country.

Jessica Potts Dupree '08 received her Master's of Public Administration in 2011. She worked for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation in Atlanta as an intern and then as a fundraiser for Great Strides, the Foundation's largest grassroots fundraiser. Since 2012, Jess has worked for Children's Healthcare of Atlanta where she is Marketing Coordinator for the Children's Foundation. She loves working in healthcare and being able to make a positive impact on the lives of families served by CHOA.

Dan Claffey '08 graduated this past May from the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine and recently passed the North American veterinary licensing exam.

The Importance of Being Generous

Why give?

Here are a few reasons....

> We are a small, independent university that depends on the support of alumni and friends to continue to provide scholarships for students, maintain our facilities, provide students with an affordable education and attract the caliber of faculty for which St. Andrews is known.

> Every gift really does count. When more people give, it really does add up.



> Foundations and corporations consider the percentage of alumni who give when we apply for grants. When we solicit major donors, they too want to know that our alumni are supporting the University financially. So even a small gift helps us receive increased support from these individuals and organizations.

> When you give to the place that means so much to you, you're doing something for yourself as well. And it feels great.

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St. Andrews University President Paul Baldasare '77 has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Association of Presbyterian Colleges and Universities.

In Memoriam

Florence Dendy Hellekson, who taught Business at both Presbyterian Junior College and St. Andrews Presbyterian College, died April 8, 2013. She was 94.

Edith Womble Boland '42 died on February 14, 2014. A native of Scotland County, NC, she graduated from Flora Macdonald College with an Education degree. She taught school in Oakboro, Gibson, Aberdeen, Red Springs, Charlotte, Fort Bragg, Fayetteville, Maxton and Laurinburg, as well as in Salzburg, Austria and Baumholder, Germany.

Mary Margaret "Peggy" Harris Cleveland '47 passed away on January 30, 2014 in Charlotte. Dr. Cleveland held a B.A. from Flora Macdonald College and an honorary doctorate from St. Andrews Presbyterian College. In her later years, Peggy described herself as a "global feminist", and was particularly concerned with the role of women in the production and distribution of food. She developed a small-scale organic farm and researched the links between hunger and the methods used in large-scale agriculture. She also worked for acceptance of LGBT people in society, especially in the church.

Ada Austin Johnson '53 died on January 5, 2014. Dr. Johnson was a professor of Spanish and French at several colleges and the head of the foreign language department at Charleston Southern University.

Barbara Lifrage Tomlinson '54 died on January 15, 2014 in Kingstree, SC. After attending Flora Macdonald College, she received a Master's of Education from the University of South Carolina. She was a retired elementary school teacher.

Mary Jane Martin '57 passed away on May 24, 2013 in Reidsville, NC. She taught elementary school for nearly 30 years, and retired in 1993.

Toula Yeapanis Van Hooser '65 died on February 18, 2014. Born in 1943 on Cyprus, she taught for 40 years in Alexandria, VA and in Laurinburg, NC.

John Franklin "Frank" Ligon '69 died suddenly of natural causes on December 18, 2013 at his home in Rocky Mount, NC.

Margaret Anne Ligon '72, sister of Frank Ligon, died on January 6, 2014 at her home in Wendell, NC.

The St. Andrews community extends its sympathy to **Judi Lawson Wallace '68, Jim Lawson '72** and **Jack Lawson '74** at the death of their mother, Doris Lawson Lewis.

The St. Andrews community was deeply saddened to learn of the death of Helen Sherrill Gustafson on December 24, 2013 at Scotia Village here in Laurinburg. She was 84. A memorial service was held on January 2 at Scotia Village.

Mrs. Gustafson was an alumna of the Class of 1951 of Flora Macdonald College, and received a Master's Degree in religious education from Duke University. She taught math at both FMC and St. Andrews. Mrs. Gustafson also started the gifted program for Scotland County, the first in the state. She was a much-loved and influential teacher to numerous Flora Macdonald and St. Andrews alumni.

Highland Players Reunion at Alumni Weekend

Cont'd from p.6 ... When she returned to the United States, Laurents had written *The Turning Point*, a major motion picture which starred Anne Bancroft and Shirley MacLaine, and Bradbury accepted a part in that movie. She died in 1976 when a private airplane she was traveling in crashed.

In 1977, the Saax Bradbury Fellowship was established through the efforts of her friend and colleague, Amos Abrams. Each year it awards two theatrically trained students with the opportunity to attend the summer Drama Workshop at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London.

In 1987, The Amos Abrams Scholarship was established. It was created by many of Abrams's friends in his memory and in appreciation for the opportunities created for St. Andrews students through the Saax Bradbury Fellowship. This scholarship is awarded to an upperclassman interested in pursuing a theatrical career.

In the late 1960s and into the 1970s, productions at St. Andrews began to include musicals. Shows included *West Side Story*, *Mame*, and the first production of *Cabaret*. St. Andrews would go on to do productions of *Cabaret* two more times in its history (another was performed in 1985 and the most recent in 2011).

In the 1970s a number of talented faculty members joined the department to work with Dr. McDonald. Dub Narramore served as Assistant Professor of Speech and Theater in the early 1970s, leaving his position at St. Andrews in 1975. He was followed by John Carson, who taught at St. Andrews from 1974 to 1976. A year later, Brad Ford was hired as an Associate Professor of Theater. He remained in the department until 1982.

A notable graduate from this era is **Susan Russell**, who graduated in 1979. She then went on to graduate from the MA/PhD program in theater studies at Florida State University. She was a professional actor on and off-Broadway as well as in regional theater and opera companies across the country. She performed for five years in *Phantom of the Opera*. She has also written several plays in her career, two of which have been produced at Lincoln Center. Russell is currently an associate professor in the School of Theatre at Pennsylvania State University in State College, PA. She has just been named Penn State Laureate for the 2014-15 academic year.

With McDonald's departure in 1983, the theater program was then led by a number of gifted teachers over the next 20 years. Notable productions during this period included plays such as *Equus*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *The Glass Menagerie* and *The Zoo Story*, as wells as musicals providing a balance of diverse shows.

Since 2000, full-stage productions and student-directed plays have remained a staple of the theater program. In the fall of 2013, the Theater Arts major was replaced by a Communications major that is more focused on public relations and journalism. However, there remains an ongoing and creative theater program led by Visiting Professor Chris Woods who teaches one theater course each semester, and directs 4 plays a year.

Last spring, a capital campaign to fund a two-part renovation of the Morris Morgan Theater was launched. The first phase of this project, spearheaded by alumni **Joe Mitchell '69** and **Johnny McNair '77**, and supported by dozens of former Highland Players, has resulted in major upgrades to the electrical system, lighting and sound systems, as well as modest renovations to the work and storage areas behind the stage. The second phase of the renovation will make improvements to the stage, house seating, sound booth, and additional areas behind the stage.

The theater program has been a vibrant part of the St. Andrews community for the past 50 years. We hope you will help continue this rich and creative tradition that benefits not only University students and staff, but alumni and the Laurinburg community. Make a gift to the Morris Morgan Theater renovation project, and join us for the Highland Players Reunion on Saturday of Alumni Weekend.

St. Andrews
by the Lake
Alumni Newsletter



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, call Ellen Thompson at 910-277-5665 or email thompsonje@sapc.edu.

For questions or information on giving to St. Andrews, contact Tommy Watt at 910-277-5664 or email watttm@sapc.edu.



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