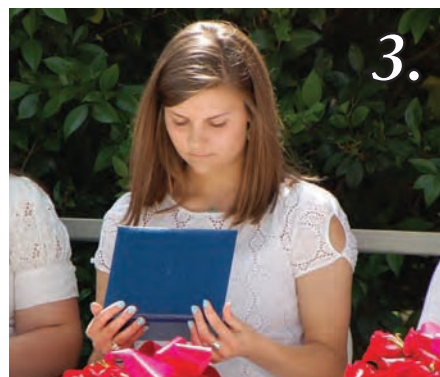




River Views

June 2011 ~ Volume 13 ~ Number 11

Commencement Weekend 2011



1. The Class of 2011 in their traditional graduation portrait.
2. Annie Rich hugs a friend after the Commencement ceremony.
3. Elizabeth Tyson examines her newly received diploma. 4. Heather Chastain receives the School Prize from Head of School Margaret Broad. 5. Stephanie Teal makes her way to the graduation platform. 6. Margaret Broad with Board Chair Caroline Baldwin '81 and President of Church Schools David Charlton.

Captain's Corner



Dear St. Margaret's families and friends,

While this issue of River Views celebrates the accomplishments and excitement of the end of the school year, June is always a month when we experience the full sweep of what it means to be St. Margaret's School in Tappahannock, Virginia, along the banks of the Rappahannock River.

With weekdays filled with the activities associated with concluding one year and finalizing plans to begin the next, the weekends tell a different story, one that connects us again or for the first time with others who love this place and the continually evolving possibilities it holds for them.

June 4th: Commencement weekend! Click [here](#) to see the online videos that capture our traditions as well as the individuality and confidence of the Class of 2011.

June 11th: Alumnae Weekend with our highest attendance ever in honor of our 90th anniversary! For the Class of 1961, five years of planning brought $\frac{3}{4}$ of the original graduating class back to live again in one dorm, this time McCuan House, to honor their time here with the dedication of a gorgeous bench for the Brockenbrough House porch, and to establish deeper connections

with each other that will sustain them in this next stage of their lives. Click [here](#) to see reunion highlights.

June 18th: The 9th annual RivahFest! The entire historic district, with St. Margaret's as its centerpiece, is transformed into a celebration of summer on the river. Another rubber duck derby, hole-in-one golf over the water, a sunset cruise on the Captain Thomas, a St. Margaret's art tent for young children in a shady spot amidst the children's activities, a historic walking tour including 2 of our buildings, and every inch of the campus and streets filled with activities. Click [here](#) to see what this day is all about and consider coming next year.

June 25th: The wedding reception for Brittany Walker, Class of 2002, daughter of our registrar Vickie Walker, held in our riverfront dining room which had been transformed into a summer garden setting. Imagine the beauty of their wedding photos taken atop the riverbank in late afternoon!

And this is the St. Margaret's experience, one that prepares girls for life, allows them to retain connections with each other and the school, and always cherishes the opportunity to give back to others.

With sincere appreciation for another year together,

Margaret R. Broad

Teachers Honored During Commencement Weekend

In addition to honoring our senior class and our community's academic achievements, we take time to acknowledge those who make academic success possible. During this year's Commencement Weekend celebrations, three teachers were honored for their contributions to the St. Margaret's community. The Waitzer Master Teacher Award and The Robert Carter and Toole Rotter Wellford Faculty Award were given during the 88th Annual Commencement Ceremony. The John T. Rice Award was given the previous evening at the Academic Awards Banquet.

John T. Rice Award

ESL and Math teacher Gayle Hicks was given the John T. Rice Award, honoring excellence in teaching.

Established five years ago, the recipient of the Rice Award is chosen each year by a committee of juniors and seniors who have attended St. Margaret's for at least two years.

Last year's recipient George McDowell read the award citation, which included direct quotes from the students who voted for Ms. Hicks. One student wrote, "I have

great respect for her. She has taught me the power of fairness through her actions."

Another said, "She truly captures what it means to love, nurture, and discipline the students of St. Margaret's School.



ESL and Math Teacher Gayle Hicks accepts the John T. Rice Award during the Academic Awards Banquet.

For Hicks, she is touched that the juniors and seniors remembered their time with her, as she does not regularly teach older students.

"It was an honor to receive the John T. Rice Award for excellence in teaching, and I am extremely appreciative of the senior and junior classes for recognizing me in this manner," she said. "I have enjoyed

working with these young ladies in the capacity of teacher, advisor, coach, and dorm counselor, and they have greatly helped me improve myself in each of those roles."

The Waitzer Master Teacher Award

English teacher Elizabeth Armour was awarded the Waitzer Master Teacher Award. The award is given annually to a member of the faculty who "has demonstrated a consistent love of teaching and positive influence on students." The award, endowed by Edwin and Richard Waitzer, "signifies the highest degree of dedication and service to the profession."

The Robert Carter and Toole Rotter Wellford Faculty Award

History teacher Larry Foulk was given the The Robert Carter and Toole Rotter Wellford Faculty Award. The award was established by the late Toole Rotter Wellford in memory of her husband; it is presented every two years to a teacher who has been at St. Margaret's for more than 3 years and who is "knowledgeable in all content areas, promotes positive relationships with students, innovates in the classroom, demonstrates professionalism, and models 'service above self.'"

Academic Awards Banquet Honors Students, 90 Years

A full year of academic endeavor culminated in the Academic Awards Banquet on June 3rd, as students from each class were honored for their hard work.

In addition to individual class honors, special recognition was given to a few students, including those who were inducted into the National Honor Society.

Two new members were inducted into the **Quill and Scroll**: Stephanie Teal and Min Joo Kim.

Junior Alexis English was honored with both the **Hollins University Creative Writing Award** and **Randolph College Book Award**.

Junior Yolanda Nan won both the **University of Virginia Book Award** and the **Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Award**.

Junior Rahel Tafese was given the **Clarkson Achievement Award** and **CC Carreras**

was honored with the **William and Mary Leadership Award**.

Presidential Award Winners

Gold: Maggie Allen, University of St. Andrews, Scotland; Lucy Eckman, Haverford

College; Ge Min Park, Georgia Tech; Stephanie Teal, Appalachian State University; Flora Zhou, College of William and Mary; **Silver:** SuJi An, New York University; Mariam Bakhtiar, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; Keara Faust, University of Puget Sound; Rebecca Parker, Wesleyan College.



Junior Alexis English poses with the Hollins University Creative Writing Award and Randolph College Book Award.

National Honor Society Inductees

Seniors: Stephanie Teal, Flora Zhou; **Juniors:** Alexis English, Yolanda Nan, Rahel Tafese; **Sophomores:** Lexie Bruzgul, Christina Han, Michelle Moss, Tiffany Sutton and Elisabeth Williams.

St. Margaret's New Messaging

How do you whittle the significance of a 90-year mission down to three words?

Last year, St. Margaret's set out to do just that. What began as an exercise to kick start our VAIS Accreditation process, turned into the realization that the school needed to capture the essence of what makes this place and the experiences it provides so special.

In the fall, the school

began working with Richmond-based advertising agency, AdCraft. Through existing research and roundtable discussions with parents, faculty, alumnae and students, the stage was set to create a new tagline.

AdCraft presented members of the administration with 16 possible taglines, but one immediately jumped to the top.

Belong. Believe. Become.

"When I heard these words for the first time, I was struck by the power of these three strong verbs to capture the spirit of the St. Margaret's School experience, not just for those who are living it today, but for alumnae throughout their lives as well as for our teachers who put these words into action every day," Head of School Margaret Broad said.

After it was approved by the Board of Governors, the final tagline was presented during a faculty meeting. During Spring Family Weekend, the new tagline was officially unveiled to the entire school community.

Since it was unveiled, the new messaging has been adopted all over campus. Assistant Head Cathy

Sgroi used it as the basis for her speech at the Junior/Senior Banquet. Her perspective on "Believe" was particularly touching:

I began my career here as a Math teacher. I remember a student who really struggled with math. She had just been introduced to factoring and it wasn't clicking. Even though I kept telling her that she would get it with persistence, I began to doubt myself. Finally, as she was on the verge of tears, I told her to put it away and we'd come back to it tomorrow. The next day she entered the room announcing that she was ready to take the quiz and I said "Are you sure?" She said she had taken a break, reviewed the notes, and suddenly things had clicked. She said, "You told me I could do it." Never again have I doubted the power of "believe."

River Views Forecast

August

- 18..... Administrators back on campus
- 29.....Peer Leaders and Prefects return by 1:00 p.m.
- 29.....Opening Chapel/Meetings for Faculty & Staff
- 31.....New international students arrive by noon

September

- 1.....Day Family Dinner and Orientation 6:00 p.m.
- 3.....All Boarding Students arrive
- 4.....All student orientation
- 5.....First Day of Classes
- 9-11....Closed weekend
- 16-18..Closed Weekend

October

- 1.....SATs
- 6-7.....Board of Governor's Fall Meeting
- 7.....End of interim assessment period
- 10.....Admission Visit Day
- 12.....PSATs grades 9-11
- 14-15..Fall Family Weekend

Check the online calendar for latest school and sports events:
www.sms.org/calendar

Have a great summer!

RiverViews will be back in August for the opening of the 2011-2012 school year.

The following is an excerpt from Lucy Eckman's Baccalaureate homily. During Lucy's first months as a St. Margaret's student, her sister, Casey, was diagnosed with and eventually passed away from myelogenous leukemia. Her homily reflected the support she felt from the St. Margaret's community during that time and the lessons she learned as a result.

When I first arrived at St. Margaret's three years ago, I was...apprehensive, to say the least. I wasn't sure if this was a place where I could fit in, let alone be happy. Then, barely a month in, I learned that my older sister, Casey, who was 21 at the time, had been diagnosed with acute myelogenous leukemia...

I had no idea that a community which had only been together for a month or two would band together in support of one of its own...

But here, by the banks of this river, we have an unspoken commitment to one another, whether we realize it or not. Think for a moment – is there any other place that you have been where you are willing to lend a helping hand to someone else in their time of need without even knowing them? Is there any other place where you know that if you ask for help, you will undoubtedly receive it with no questions asked? Is there any other place where you know that when you

embark on a journey, you will not be alone? For our unspoken commitment is this: "Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God." We are the modern-day Naomi and Ruth.



So as you move forward in your lives, to college, to the Coast Guard, and beyond, I only ask that you never forget the bonds that hold you here. While of course we all had our troubled times at St. Margaret's, I know I speak for everyone when I say that although we are leaving, we are leaving as sisters. Some magic has taken place here by the Rappahannock, and it is a magic that will never be found anywhere else. But instead of sadness, let us find joy that we

have lived in it. Let us find joy in the lifelong bonds which we have formed, tried, tested, and know to be true. Although we will not be seeing our sisters every day, as they travel to Washington State, to Scotland, we know that when we return for reunions, or when we find the time to make a phone call, everything will be as we left it. We also know that if we ever need a hand, we have the support of an entire community not far away.

As you make your way from this beautiful place tomorrow in planes and trains and cars, know that we are all coming with you. We have all grown because of the love and respect that we have for one another. Like Naomi and her daughter-in-law, Ruth, we have promised, in ways other than spoken word, to always be with each other. We have seen each other at our lowest, and at our highest. No matter the distance or time that passes, we are all the women of St. Margaret's and we will always be so. Never forget that you are not alone – for wherever you go, I will go too.

Lucy Eckman '11 is from Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania. She came to St. Margaret's as a sophomore. In the fall, she will attend Haverford College outside of Philadelphia.

Things to Remember

The 2011-2012 school year is only a few short months away. Here are some things to keep in mind as you plan to return to campus:

Reminders for This Summer

- School Office Hours for the summer are 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. *Note: The School Life Office will be closed during the month of July.*
- Don't forget your summer reading! Remember, it's 3 books, 3 months, 3 reading responses. Go to www.sms.org for a list of approved books.
- Registration forms for next year are due by July 1.



When Does School Start?

- **August 29th:** Peer leaders and Prefects here by 1 p.m.
- **August 30th:** Athletes participating in pre-season and AP Calculus AB students return by 2 p.m.
- **September 3rd,** after 12 p.m.: All remaining returning students.
- We ask that all students adhere strictly to the dates when the dorms will be open to them. Those students traveling a great distance may arrive to campus one day before their first commitment with **prior approval**. Please contact the school to obtain approval.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back for another wonderful year!



St. Margaret's School

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Educating Young Women for Life.

St. Margaret's School actively seeks and admits qualified students of any race, color, religious affiliation, national or ethnic origin.