A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

We made it! This is the home stretch for everyone, not only the publications but also students and faculty alike.

This issue is one of tributes; many faculty members will be leaving at the end of this school year, and we hope to share a few anecdotes about and lots of thanks for our departing faculty, including Dr. Thrift, Dr. Burkette, Ms. Beattie, and Ms. Hutchins.

In addition, we have a few features dedicated to the graduating senior class, including an article about prom, a list of senior colleges, and the separately printed Senior Wills.

It’s been a great year for Grassroots, and I’d like to thank both my staff (Lindsey Anderson, Molly DeCristo, Hannah Leinbach, Luca Molnar, Brooke Shaffer, Emily Slater, and Amanda Simmons) and our two wonderful faculty advisors (Mrs. Kay Windsor and Dr. Bonnie Cook) for all of their hard work and dedication. Best of luck and good wishes to the editors for next year!

Enjoy the issue, and once again, please feel free to drop any comments and feedback to molnfr9@salem.edu.

Frunzsina Molnar

FOUNDER’S DAY 2006

Remembering our deep roots in the past, the Salem College and Academy community gathered to celebrate the time of year our school was founded in 1772. On Friday April 21, we assembled to remember the founders of Salem College and Academy, who were pioneers of their time.

Federal Circuit Court Judge, the Honorable Susan Black, delivered the keynote address. She spoke about the importance of pioneers and how we are pioneers as the founders were.

Then, the Elizabeth Oesterlein Award was presented to a College Senior and an Academy Senior, who have both made lasting impacts on their respective schools. Martha Elster received the Academy Award. The awards were presented by the 2005 award recipients, of whom Mary Hollis Williams represented the Academy.

Since Dr. Thrift is retiring as the President of Salem Academy and College, a beautiful portrait of her was unveiled.

Both Academy seniors, who were dressed in their all-white caps and gowns, and College seniors, in traditional black, were seated at the front of Hanes Auditorium.

Founders Day was an important way for those associated with Salem Academy and College to remember our significant connections to the founders of Salem.

story by Molly DeCristo and photo by Allen Aycock
Ms. Frances Beattie, Salem Academy’s current College Counselor, has announced her impending retirement. For all of us here now, Ms. Beattie has been a constant presence at Salem and in our lives. She shared with Grassroots some of her plans for the future, favorite memories from Salem, and parting words. After retiring, Ms. Beattie says she will “quit getting up at 5:30 in the morning.” In addition to catching up on her sleep, she also plans to travel, play golf, and spend more time on hobbies she loves. She enjoys baking, basket weaving, and just learned how to knit. Ms. Beattie looks forward to having more time for herself; at Salem it has, “been busy, busy, busy.”

Commenting on Salem, Ms. Beattie says that it offers the finest education, and she is so impressed by how successful students are in college and later life. According to Ms. Beattie, Salem is “definitely one impressive place.” She adds that she is very pleased to have been able to aid students in applying to college.

When asked about what changes she has seen in Salem through the years, Ms. Beattie said that now you see more skin, more piercings, cell phones, and brighter hair colors, (which she likes). The “students are still focused and care about their education—that has not changed.” As she laughs over all the trends she has seen go by, Ms. Beattie says that the “greatest thing about working with teenagers is you never feel old.”

We requested that she share some funny anecdotes with us, and Ms. Beattie immediately insisted that we bring in Ms. T, since she is a “much better storyteller.” They both began reliving old memories, laughing over fun times, like their close encounter with an ax-murderer, who turned out to be Mr. Sprinkle, Salem’s security guard at the time. The two settled on telling the story of the Salem Streakers.

Back in the days when streaking was the thing to do, students from WFU and other schools would go streaking across campus and Old Salem. Ms. T decided to call an assembly and tell the girls that they were not to “set foot outside the school to streak” or they would be facing serious consequences. Since they were not allowed to go outside to streak, some students decided to outsmart the new rule. One afternoon, a student came out of her dorm room wearing nothing but a trench coat, and then proceeded to throw it off and run naked through the halls. As students poked their heads out of their doors to see what was going on, more and more girls joined in. Soon, a whole group was running naked through the halls. While they were going down the stairs, one of these girls fell and broke her leg. She waited until she was fully clothed again, and then went to find Ms. T, who took her to the ER. There, they had to tell the doctors the story of how she broke her leg. Quickly, it spread across the floor that there was a streaker in the ER, and everyone came to see her. Every time Ms. T went to the hospital after that incident, she was known as “the one who brought the streaker.”

Clearly, Ms. Beattie has seen her share of interesting times here at Salem, and hopes she has left her impact here as strongly as it has left its impact on her.

As we begin to wrap up our interview, Ms. Beattie tells Salem to “keep doing what it’s doing,” stay strong, and teach what is important. She hopes that she has left the impression that, “I care about everyone…I just like people for who they are,” and “I hope that I have shown that I genuinely want to help people.” Ms. Beattie continues to say, “I will still have a relationship with Salem one way or the other.” We will certainly miss her smiling face and guidance, and will look forward to her visits often. Ms. Beattie has left a powerful effect on many, many Salem girls throughout the years, and all of the students genuinely thank her for all she has done for us.
Dr. Julianne Still Thrift has become a familiar face around the Salem campus, an easily recognizable name in school programs, and a well-known voice presiding over many traditional events in the community.

However, she will soon be conducting her final Closing Chapel and bring to a close her presidency of Salem Academy and College, where she was first appointed in 1991. Before she joined the Salem community, Thrift was a University of South Carolina graduate and later the vice president of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

Fifteen years after her appointment as our president, Salem is a very different place and Dr. Thrift should be given credit for much of the positive change that has occurred. Academy students have benefited from her direction of the McMichael hall renovation, as well as the Drama Workshop’s many improvements.

Dr. Thrift had a hand in the fifty million dollar campaign, which resulted in those upgrades, as well as the Reach Within Shape the Future banners that have sprung up around the campus. Besides increasing enrollment and hiring a large number of the current faculty, Thrift provides a true example of success by becoming the first female president of the Academy and College.

Her portrait, hanging in the Fine Arts Center, will serve as a fond reminder of her achievements and legacy. Susan Pauly has been chosen as the new president, and will be the new voice ringing across the auditorium from Opening Chapel to Founder’s Day in the upcoming school year.

Although Dr. Thrift will be missed, Dr. Susan Pauly will soon become a strong part of any analogy that Ms. Thompson can create to represent the Salem community.

Brooke Shaffer
Little white gift bags magically appeared in seniors’ mailboxes, and inside of them were invitations from the junior class for Prom 2006, which took place in Bryant Hall, April 22nd.

To sum up prom in the words of one sophomore server, Katherine Rendon, “Prom took my breath away.” Lauren Wood looked happy enough in red as she took home the title of Prom Queen. Each of the other seniors was gifted as well with party favors of champagne glasses with the words, “Here’s to the Night 2006” inscribed in purple, so the seniors would always remember this night, celebrating a final year of high school, friends, and the promise of a graduation to come. Most of the senior class attended prom, some with dates, some without.

A sophomore sneaked into the prom disguised as a party server, but was soon after caught and sent right back out by our trusty dean of students, Ms. T.; the name of this particular sophomore will go unmentioned.

Some of the seniors complained following the prom that most of the songs played were not danceable but rather songs they would play while driving in their cars, at times when they are not able to dance.

Guys from the military to Natalie Rodriguez’s date, who came all the way from Miami, attended the prom. The dance was so varied in the colors and styles of dresses. There were photographers to take pictures, but most kids brought cameras of their own to record fun memories.

An assortment of food, including chocolate-covered strawberries, punch, and truffles, lined the tables in the back. Lights hung down from the ceiling, and a prevailing question upon entering the room was, “How did they get the lights up there?” But, always the resourceful ones, the students of Salem who spent long hours Friday afternoon decorating for prom, claim they used ladders. The prom was a huge success, and, as they thanked the junior class in assembly the following Monday, the senior class was extremely grateful for the effort of the junior class in making this night special for everyone.

“RING CHECK!”

Congratulations are in order for Ms. Shana Hutchins, who recently became engaged! Her new fiancé, Jake Stewart, is a golf course superintendent. Ms. Hutchins will be leaving the Academy this year in order to move to the Charlotte area. She hope to find another teaching job in her new location.
Salem Academy was recently shocked and dismayed by the news that beloved headmaster Dr. Wayne Burkette will not be returning next year. Dr. Burkette has been the head of school since 1994 and during his twelve years here, he has been praised for his work not only with the Academy, but also for his work within the Moravian Church. Dr. Burkette is leaving his position at Salem to become the president of the Provincial Elders Conference of the Moravian Church.

During his years here, Dr. Burkette has witnessed major changes at the Academy, and it is obvious from the way in which he speaks of Salem that he will not easily forget the time he has spent here. When asked about what kind of changes he has witnessed at Salem during the past twelve years, besides explaining the excitement he felt upon seeing the renovations to the building itself, Dr. Burkette also said that, “The students just keep getting better and better. They are doing more and more.”

Dr. Burkette has had many wonderful memories at Salem and he will not forget his students, just as they will not forget him and all that he did here. When asked what his funniest memory at Salem Academy was, Dr. Burkette took a moment to think and then that oh-so-familiar headmaster smile spread over his face as he exclaimed, “Oh, I know! The great chicken incident!”

According to Dr. Burkette, there used to be a chicken that spent its time pecking around Old Salem. One day, the chicken found its way onto the front lawn of the Academy. Public safety was called into action, but the flighty offender was able to outrun the security staff. That’s when two students approached Dr. Burkette looking for a way to work off demerits. Dr. Burkette sent the two girls and some of their friends outside to catch the chicken and within five minutes, the chicken was caught. Obviously, Dr. Burkette will have trouble forgetting his Salem girls and their willingness to serve.

Dr. Burkette also explained the process by which a new headmaster will be chosen. Next year, Gordon E. Bondurant will serve as interim headmaster. Bondurant has had fifty years’ experience in education and has served on the Salem Academy and College Board of Trustees since 2002. Also during next year, a search committee, which will include representatives from the Academy, will look for candidates for the new headmaster position.

Although Dr. Burkette will be leaving Salem after this year, he will not be forgotten. He is a gifted leader and he will surely visit Salem Academy when he is not away leading the Provincial Elders Conference as he has led Salem for the past twelve years.
Seniors plan to attend the following colleges and universities next fall.

**Lydia Abernethy:**
NC State

**Glee Anderson:**
Salem College

**Lizzy Baker:**
Centenary College of Louisiana

**Sarah Bare:**
Maryland Institute College of Art

**Amber Brennan:**
Villanova University

**Kelly Bumgarner:**
NC State

**Abigail Crumley:**
Appalachian State University

**Charlotte DeWitt:**
College of Charleston

**Martha Elster:**
Emory University

**MaeBeth Fentress:**
Haverford College

**Kate Friedenberg:**
Dickinson College

**Carleigh High:**
Georgia Tech

**Rae Hinkle:**
Elon University

**Linda Ho:**
Rutgers State University of New Jersey

**Andrea Howland-Myers:**
Oklahoma City University

**Joanna Huneycutt:**
NC State

**Al-Sherre Johnson:**
East Carolina University

**Caitlin Jones:**
UNC Chapel Hill

**Katie Jordan:**
UNC Greensboro

**Soo-Jin Kang:**
University of Miami

**Lexi Kay:**
Elon University

**Rachel Kim:**
University of Illinois

**Nikki Lawson:**
High Point University or Drew University

**Mary Layton:**
UNC Wilmington

**Hanbit Lee:**
Carnegie-Mellon University

**Amanda Leger:**
UNC Chapel Hill

**Hannah Leinbach:**
Appalachian State University

**Sarah Livengood:**
Appalachian State University

**Nicky Loew:**
UNC Chapel Hill

**Lindsay Martin:**
Elon University

**Jennifer Mathews:**
UNC Charlotte

**Meredith May:**
Virginia Tech

**Hollis Mickey:**
Brown University

**Catherine Milburn:**
UNC Greensboro

**Fruzsina Molnar:**
Dartmouth College

**Caroline Phillips:**
University of Arizona

**Taliaferro Pollock:**
University of Alabama

**Edith Sangueza:**
Yale University

**Holley Shearburn:**
UNC Asheville

**Emily Slater:**
Seattle Pacific University

**Holley Spears:**
UNC Chapel Hill

**Kelsey Stiner:**
University of Richmond or West Virginia University

**Sara Twyman:**
Appalachian State University

**Lauren White:**
UNC Chapel Hill

**Lauren Wood:**
University of Arizona

Compiled by: Lindsey Anderson
Goodbye!

Jessica Blackstock, Yasmeen Chism, Valerie Feezor, Brittany Mann, Amanda James, Abrea Armstrong, and Anna Grey Byrd wave goodbye to the many students and faculty that will not be returning next year. We’ll miss you!

Photos by Luca Molnar