MEASURING SUCCESS

Renowned food critic Phyllis Richman and choreographer Liz Lerman headline Women’s Leadership Conference

By Melissa Apter

With a theme of “measuring success,” the 14th annual Women’s Leadership Conference attracted more than 100 professional women, alumnae, and students to the Mount Vernon Campus on Fri., March 28. Attendees of the sold-out conference examined what success means to women and by what standards women measure success. Rachelle S. Heller, associate provost of the Mount Vernon Campus, framed the discussion in terms of a simple, yet loaded question: “How do we know we’re successful?”

During her keynote address, award-winning author and 23-year veteran food critic for The Washington Post, Phyllis Richman discussed her road to success. Leaning toward the microphone, she shared words from her column, “Answering Harvard’s Question about My Personal Life, 52 Years Later,” in which she replied to the Harvard professor who questioned how Ms. Richman planned to combine a professional life with her “responsibilities” to her husband and a possible future family.

“While I ended up with a rewarding and varied professional life, your letter shows just how much Harvard—not to mention my husband, our families and even myself—didn’t give my career the respect it deserved when I was just starting out,” said Ms. Richman.

Ms. Richman further shared her experiences working for other women—“women bosses could be empathetic or they could be demeaning to other women”—and her ingredients for success: confidence, a good support network of friends and family, an outlet for relaxation, and the persistence to “pursue your dream job—it won’t pursue you!”

“I’m a firm believer in persistence,” she said. “You’ve been rejected? Try them again. Eventually a nuisance becomes familiar.”

Next on the agenda were a selection of four breakout sessions, followed by a luncheon and resource fair in West Hall. Attendees then headed across the street to the Ames Hall auditorium for an engaging afternoon address, “Hiking the Horizontal: Making Rules and Breaking Rules,” presented by renowned choreographer and educator Liz Lerman.

Kindness and the concept of openness to influence were touch points throughout the hourlong presentation, in which Ms. Lerman wove the tale of her influences from accompanying her father to his tire shop in Milwaukee, to the chanting of famed kumu hula Raylene Lancaster, to her mother’s death, a pivotal moment that inspired her graduate work at GW choreographing pieces with the elderly at the Roosevelt Hotel for Senior Citizens.

The audience was treated to video clips from Ms. Lerman’s repertoire, including an emotionally charged piece depicting the relationship between father and son that brought tears to the eyes of participants. The conference concluded with a panel discussion titled, “New Measures of Success,” moderated by Sharon Hadary, principal of Sharon Hadary & Co. and author of “How Women Lead: 8 Essential Strategies.”

The panelists, all successful businesswomen, included Carter Kay, MVC B.A. ’77, founder of Carter Kay Interiors whose work has landed on the covers of Southern Living and Atlanta Home; Nancy Griffith Hoof, MVC B.B.A. ’78, a former co-owner of D.C. area exercise studio IMAGES and current assistant to Ms. Kay; Sara Ricklen Alter, founder and chief polish officer of Pretty Please Nail Polish; and Sabrina Islam, MVC ’78, managing director of Tulip Garments Limited and director of Garments Ltd. and Osman Textiles Ltd. in Bangladesh, who studied small business management at Mount Vernon College through a Ford Foundation scholarship. In defining what success meant to each of them, the panelists agreed that a continued passion for their work, ability to employ and inspire others, and striking work-home life balance are important measures of success.

Education, of course, played a strong hand in the success of the panelists, as well as audience members. Summing up the thoughts of fellow alumnae, Cissy Baker, MVC B.A. ’74, former corporate vice president and Washington bureau chief at Tribune Co., said, “Mount Vernon made me what I am today. Because of Mount Vernon I am a success.”

Award-winning author and Washington Post food critic Phyllis Richman delivered the keynote address.
Connecting and Reconnecting

There is nothing more beautiful than the beautiful Mount Vernon Campus on an early spring day. The cherry trees are just blooming, the daffodils are open, the tulips and azaleas are not far behind. The ball fields on campus are noisy with fans cheering on our tennis, softball, soccer, and lacrosse teams. Students are around enjoying the sunny weather as they do so much more. I, too, took a bit of time off to daydream on the Quad, near the fountain, right after we ceremoniously turned the fountain on to welcome spring. It’s time, I thought, to think about connections and reconnecting with our friends, our past, and our future.

We had a lovely reconnection of women from the class of 1978 as they came to support their classmates Carter Kay, Nancy Hoof, and Sabrina Islam who were panelists at our annual Women’s Leadership Conference, this year focusing on new measures of success. You can read about the conference in this issue, along with a story about two Texas alumns who just reconnected after more than 50 years. It never ceases to amaze me that old friends reconnect, time fades away and we take up where we left off.

We also have MVC alumnae connecting with current students. Thanks to Mount Vernon National Advisory Council members Harjinder Gill, MVC B.A. ’99, and Judy Rogers, MVC B.A. ’76, the MVC mentoring program is underway with eight other women and many Women’s Leadership Program sophomores and juniors. Stay tuned for full coverage of the mentoring program in the fall issue of Mount Vernon Today.

Are you wondering how you might reconnect? Plan now to join us for Alumnae Weekend, Sept. 19 to 21. Consider writing to your classmates and encouraging them to attend (we’d be happy to help you with mailings and contacts).

What about making connections? Consider joining our mentoring network. The plans to attend (we’d be happy to help you with mailings and contacts).

Just feeling like you want to stroll around campus again and capture that old feeling? Come right ahead; we’d love to have you visit.

Sincerely,

Rachelle S. Heller
Associate Provost for
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A FEAST FOR THE EYES

By Annie Talbot and Emily Somberg

The Mount Vernon Campus is home to an extensive collection of paintings, sculptures, and architecture detailing Mount Vernon’s rich history and beautifully embellishing every corner of campus.

A number of noteworthy paintings—from late Victorian period works to modern pieces created by university alumni—bedeck the walls of Mount Vernon’s buildings. Portraits of Elizabeth Somers and Marjorie Merriweather Post, displayed in historic Post Hall, stand tribute to the Mount Vernon Campus’ past as a prestigious women’s seminary and college from 1880 until 1999.

Above the hall’s hearth, Elizabeth Somers, founder of Mount Vernon Seminary and College, is painted in a cream gown, displaying the pride and strength common among Edwardian Era art. Marjorie Merriweather Post, heiress to the fortune of her family’s success in the food industry, and the “first life Alumna-Trustee of the Board,” stands elegantly and formidable, wearing a 1940s velvet gown, jewels, and a fur shawl around her shoulders. Both works not only illuminate Mount Vernon’s past, but also provide a glimpse into eras of art history.

The Somers residence hall is home to several modern works by alumni, including Sandra Reed’s acrylic work titled Sumner Solstice. The work portrays the fall of winter and the rise of a melancholy summer, depicted by Ms. Reed, M.F.A. ’92, through the use of two figures. Her artistry reveals not only exceptional talent, but also lasting contributions to the university’s dedication to art, following the tradition established over a century ago by Elizabeth Somers.

Among the works of art adorning the campus are several pieces of outdoor sculpture—from a reading squirrel sculpted by a former Mount Vernon art professor to a hawk sculpture created by stonemason Ben Cabot. The steel squirrel, titled “Professor Who,” resides on the hillside across from Eckles Library. Crafted by the late artist Slaithong Chengtrakul Schmutzchart, M.F.A. ’83, who taught art at Mount Vernon College from 1978 to 1991, the sculpture was donated to campus by her husband in 2009 and provides important social commentary. The squirrel, reading a book with a centipede crawling across its pages, encourages students to break stereotypes and live as individuals without being subjected to societal norms.

Another steel sculpture, “Pownal,” has been a reading squirrel sculpted by a former Mount Vernon art professor to a hawk sculpture created by stonemason Ben Cabot. The steel squirrel, titled “Professor Who,” resides on the hillside across from Eckles Library. Crafted by the late artist Slaithong Chengtrakul Schmutzchart, M.F.A. ’83, who taught art at Mount Vernon College from 1978 to 1991, the sculpture was donated to campus by her husband in 2009 and provides important social commentary. The squirrel, reading a book with a centipede crawling across its pages, encourages students to break stereotypes and live as individuals without being subjected to societal norms.

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While you may not have visited our campus in awhile, Mount Vernon is still your alma mater. We not only gather here to remember the departed, but we also celebrate weddings, christenings, receptions, and other life events.

When our alumnae director Liz Raymond reaches out to you, I urge you to take her up on her offer for lunch or coffee. This is an opportunity to share your story so we can include it in our Mount Vernon Legacy Archives Project. Whether you attended the seminary or college, were a day student or a boarder, or participated in the WLP or GW sports, we want to tell your story and hear about how Mount Vernon influenced your life.

During the next year, we’re formalizing campaigns to fund scholarships, activities, archives, and campus improvements. I hope you’ll join me in supporting the next generation of Mount Vernon students.

Sincerely,

Memphis Holland
Chair
MVC ’88

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL CHAIR

Our Campus: Celebrations of Our Lives

When I was a student, Post Hall—donated to Mount Vernon by Marjorie Merriweather Post in 1956—was the place for all of our events. Long after Elizabeth Somers’ passing in 1924, she continues to oversee her “Dear Daughters” from her beautiful portrait hanging over the fireplace in Post Hall. Today, through generous contributions, this historic setting is being polished and its luster restored. The paintings of Ms. Somers, Peter Pelham, and other Mount Vernon luminaries are being cleaned and Post Hall recently welcomed a new Steinway piano and was lauded by a GW official as “the best venue of all of the campuses, perfect for recitals for its acoustic quality.”

In this issue of Mount Vernon Today, you’ll read about the abundance of arts on campus, as well as recent activities at Mount Vernon—including the fourth biennial Women in Diplomacy panel discussion; the Women’s Leadership Conference; a tribute to Fred Siegel by Jody Hubbard, B.B.A. ’99; and Harinder Gill, MVC B.B.A. ’99, winning the GW Alumni Outstanding Service Award.

With sadness and admiration, you’ll read about the celebration of the life of Marjorie Merriweather Post’s great granddaughter Nenedia Dye, MVC ’93, who passed away late last year. Nenedia was known for her enormous heart, her compassion for all people, and her desire to give generously of her blessings. Nenedia’s family held a memorial service on campus for her on April 12, and I was privileged to be a part of sharing our Mount Vernon history.

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When we gather to reflect on our lives, we fully realize the extent of what our alma mater has meant to us. The love and generosity of our Mount Vernon family is insurmountable, but the time may have come to formalize and create a stronger movement to support our campus and students.

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Six female diplomats from across the globe visited the Mount Vernon Campus in February for a Women’s Leadership Program-sponsored panel discussion.

WOMEN IN DIPLOMACY

Female diplomats from six nations speak on Mount Vernon Campus

By Melissa Apter

Ranking female diplomats from six nations received a warm welcome from the members of the Elizabeth Somers Women’s Leadership Program Feb. 27, as part of the fourth biennial Women in Diplomacy panel discussion.

The distinguished guests included representatives from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ireland, Costa Rica, Botswana, the United Republic of Tanzania, and the Principality of Liechtenstein, who mingled with WLP students in the foyer of Ames Hall before being seated for dinner and roundtable discussions.

As delectable bites were passed around the cloth-covered tables, the students, having written briefing papers in advance of the evening, used the intimate setting to ask an array of questions ranging from trade issues to the influence of U.S. aid in foreign countries.

Elliott School of International Affairs freshman Anne Keogh inquired about the role of diplomacy in security for land-locked Botswana.

“At one point we were surrounded by countries fighting for independence,” Botswana Minister Counsellor Emolemo Morake replied. “It was a turbulent region. We knew that we couldn’t fight, so we had to talk. We talked to the African Union, to the United Nations to avoid invasion.”

When the last chocolate-covered strawberry had left the dessert tray, the guests moved into a lecture hall for a lively panel discussion, moderated by veteran Washington Post reporter and Pulitzer Prize winner Mary Jordan.

Striking right at the theme of the evening, Ms. Jordan opened with a direct question. “What’s it like to be in the male club of diplomacy?”

Muni Figueres, ambassador from Costa Rica, said, “It’s really rather fun to be a woman in a visible job with many, many, many men. Being a woman is an advantage, I think. We exude a charm men do not. If you are one of 10 men, you are looked on as a flower.”

Andree von Bizzozzo, ambassador from Ireland, offered a contracting viewpoint.

“It is true that one has additional visibility, but the disadvantages outweigh the advantages,” she said. “One is consistently conscious of being a minority, but that has not impeded getting the job done.”

Guided by Ms. Jordan, each diplomat revealed their journey climbing the ranks of the Foreign Service, their thoughts on women’s strengths, such as consensus building and listening, and how to tackle so-called “soft issues,” like women’s rights and human rights.

The concept of being pigeonholed by “soft issues” was addressed during the open session.

“One way to make soft issues hard is to get to the hard underbelly of soft issues,” Ms. Figueres said. “If you understand the economics of women’s rights, human rights, the value of women in the workforce…this elevates the need to address these soft issues.”

Another student inquiry: How do you balance success and femininity?

“Well, look at us,” Claudia Fritsche, ambassador from the Principality of Liechtenstein, said to the laughter of the crowd. “You can be assertive without losing your femininity.”

Liberata Mulamula, ambassador from the United Republic of Tanzania, offered similar thoughts.

“Be yourself,” she said. “Don’t be someone else. Be bold.”

The experiences of the panel came as a shock to some students, like Elliott School of International Affairs freshman Kirsten Dimovitz.

“I was surprised by the gender-positive message,” she said. “I expected to hear more about a glass ceiling.”

Rachelle Heller, associate provost of the Mount Vernon Campus, hopes the message the diplomats provided resonates with her students.

“These young women are 18 and 19 years old,” she said. “They’re going to need the passion, boldness, and conviction the ambassadors embodied.”
Friends and colleagues of Frederic A. Siegel gathered on the Mount Vernon Campus March 28 to surprise the former associate vice president and dean of freshmen with a bench on the Quad in honor of his years of service to GW and the Mount Vernon Campus.

The crowd erupted in applause as a stunned Mr. Siegel approached the dedication ceremony—which had been kept a well-hidden secret from him. Laughter and cheers increased when Mr. Siegel saw Jody Hubbard, B.B.A. ’99, standing alongside the wooden bench.

While visiting the Siegel family in Palm Springs this past fall, Ms. Hubbard asked her longtime mentor what he might like named in his honor when she had the means to do so.

“Do you want a dorm or an athletic facility named after you? He replied that he wanted a bench at the beautiful Mount Vernon campus,” said Ms. Hubbard.

Following remarks by Ms. Hubbard and Associate Provost for the Mount Vernon Campus Rachelle S. Heller, Mr. Siegel took a few moments to collect himself—still shocked at the presence of his daughter who was supposed to have been out of town, and that his wife, Cindy, was able to keep the event a secret—before addressing the crowd.

“My mentor at Boston University criticized me for not knowing the difference between colleagues, faculty, and friends,” said Mr. Siegel gesturing to the crowd. “Turning to Ms. Hubbard, he said, ‘You are special.’

At the celebratory cocktail hour, Mr. Siegel worked the room, exchanging stories and making promises to catch up with dear friends over lunch.

“We lived here. My daughter Emily grew up here from 11 to 18-years-old,” said Mr. Siegel, whose family resided in Mount Vernon Alumnae House from 2003 to 2010. “It was a special time in our family’s life and to know that there will always be a place for me to go and remember our time here, it just means the world to me.”

Students in Forensic Molecular Biology II learn forensic DNA analysis methods before working on a mock case that replicates the experiences of a crime lab. Dr. Daniele Podini, assistant professor of forensic molecular biology, provides the class with a sealed envelope of DNA evidence to analyze.

But this semester, that wasn’t all he provided. After surprising the students with the revelation that the case was real, not mock, Dr. Podini then introduced them to the crime victim.

“I want them to know—10 years down the road when they’re working in a crime lab on their 600th case and they’re annoyed at their boss and swamped with work—that behind each case there is an individual, and they must never forget that,” Dr. Podini says.

The eight students had reviewed the case of Monika Korra, a student and athlete at Southern Methodist University who was abducted from a Dallas street in 2009 and raped. DNA evidence from duct tape placed across her face proved pivotal to the convictions of three men.

Ms. Korra is now CEO of The Monika Korra Foundation, which raises awareness about the victims of sexual assault. She agreed to talk to Dr. Podini’s class, as well as students in the Women’s Leadership Program, about how important it was to see her attackers caught and sentenced.

“Monika’s case is a very harsh one. She is the age of my students,” Dr. Podini says. “This is a unique opportunity for me to really teach that what they will be doing has a direct and significant impact on lives.”

“And this isn’t just about victims. Their work could also free a suspect wrongly accused of a crime,” he adds.

Dr. Podini’s research focuses on DNA as a powerful tool for criminal investigations. He is in the middle of a two-year, $243,000 grant from the National Institute of Justice to investigate new methods for identifying spermatozoa from sexual assault evidence.

When Dr. Podini joined the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences as a permanent member of the faculty in 2006, the Department of Forensic Sciences was on the Foggy Bottom Campus.

“I miss being able to talk to other scientists from the chemistry and biology departments who are still on Foggy Bottom,” he says, “but we have much better facilities and space here at Mount Vernon.”
Off and on for nearly 40 years, Beverly Stoney Johnson, MVC A.A. ‘76, thought about tossing the student newspapers that she co-edited at Mount Vernon College. But something made her hang onto the mementos.

“I loved being part of the newspaper,” says Mrs. Johnson. “I just couldn’t throw them out.”

Recently she donated the newspapers to the Mount Vernon Archives, along with a signature silk scarf that Frankie Welch, a Virginia designer favored by first lady Betty Ford, developed for the college.

Mrs. Johnson started out with a communications major at Mount Vernon but switched to interior design with a minor in studio arts. She has run a private business since 1977, including a store in a historic area of her hometown, Charleston, S.C., for more than 20 years, and today works as a private shopping consultant. She also serves on nonprofit boards working to preserve and restore historic properties in Charleston and Flat Rock, N.C.

“Mount Vernon encouraged us to go out and do things, to be active and part of your community,” she says.

Mount Vernon was a family affair for Mrs. Johnson. Her mother, Lois “Loddie” Middleton Stoney, graduated in 1940 from Mount Vernon Seminary, where she started a lifelong friendship with her roommate, actress Dina Merrill, MVS ’41. Mrs. Johnson’s sister-in-law Pauline (Polly) Cain Stoney is a 1977 graduate.

“When I think of Mount Vernon, I think of wonderment and loyalty. I loved my years there and my mother had loved her years there,” she says. “We had teachers that respected us and treated us with kindness.”

She recalls parties on Embassy Row, sledding down the snowy hills of the campus on cafeteria trays, shows at the Kennedy Center, and outings with her best friends Thoë Tuomey Hayes, MBC ’77, and Renee Carmody Mathews, MBC B.A. ’78.

Like other Mount Vernon alumnae, Mrs. Johnson also talks of enduring friendships with classmates that stood up in each other’s weddings, served as godparents to each other’s children, and still regularly chat on the phone decades after graduation. In a single week in March, for example, she had contact with six Mount Vernon friends.

“What I experienced at Mount Vernon was important one but I’d see the artists come in...”

Joan Compton was packed up and ready to begin her freshman year at the University of Texas when a neighbor’s comments made her rethink the plan.

“She was six or seven years older than me, smart, and a good listener, and she asked me where I was going to school,” recalls Joan, whose married name is Cochran. “When I told her, she said, ‘You’ll always be able to go to Texas. Why don’t you go somewhere else first?’”

The teenager wasted no time in phoning her best friend, Jane Langdon, and they both reversed course by enrolling at Mount Vernon College. The next thing they knew, the lively Fort Worth teenagers were learning the ins and outs of the District of Columbia, including where to find Dr. Pepper (the basement canteen at the Library of Congress) and what footwear was appropriate for the snowy John F. Kennedy inauguration (high heels).

More than half a century later, Mrs. Cochran, MVC A.A. ’61, has been reminiscing about those Mount Vernon days with another long-ago classmate, Suzy (Johnson) Allan, MVC A.A. ’61.

The women—unaware that they both lived in Fort Worth, at one point just blocks apart—were reunited in February at a lunch organized by Elizabeth Raymond, the senior director of development on the Mount Vernon Campus. Ms. Raymond traveled to Texas to meet alumnae from the junior college that inspired the George Washington University’s Women’s Leadership Program.

The two alumnae have since met on their own to remember elegant gatherings at Marjorie Meneweather Post’s Hillwood estate, cultural performances at the Kennedy Center, and embassy parties. They also talked about Jane Langdon, who had been Mrs. Allan’s roommate and who died not long after finishing her Mount Vernon studies.

Mrs. Cochran was among a group of Texans who left home to study on the East Coast and would meet in New York City at the Roosevelt Hotel to celebrate holidays together. She recalled one Thanksgiving in which the students combed the hotel, sweeping the sand from the ashtrays to create a “beach” on the hotel carpet for a luau-themed party.

That might have been the same year Mrs. Allan was selected to serve as the “princess” on Illinois’ float in the Cherry Blossom Parade.

“There was a fashion show related to it and we got to wear gowns used by the first ladies,” she says. “I was hoping for something from Jackie Kennedy, but I got a gown that belonged to Mamie Eisenhower.”

Mrs. Cochran returned home after Mount Vernon—and a degree from Texas Christian University—to marry. In recent years she and her husband, a retired banker, have slipped away from their cattle ranch for international travel, frequently to Asia or Italy. Mrs. Allan, for her part, began international travels straight after earning a B.A. in English literature from the University of North Carolina, where she enrolled following Mount Vernon College.

“My sister Holly and I got a copy of Europe on $5 a Day by Arthur Frommer, took our money and went to see how long we could travel,” she says. “We ended up being away for a year and a half.”

That trip was marked by a bit part as a saloon girl in a spaghetti western filmed in Barcelona, attendance at the Venice Biennale, a brief appearance as a ski bunny in an Austrian film, and a job working at the famous Sonnabend Gallery in Paris.

“Artists like Roy Lichtenstein and Andy Warhol had pieces there. My favorite was Robert Rauschenberg,” she says. “My job wasn’t an important one but I’d see the artists come in from time to time and that was thrilling.”

The renewed friendship has prompted the women to start tracking down other friends from their Mount Vernon days. Both also talk about returning to their old college campus, which they have not seen since 1999.
Post Hall was packed Saturday afternoon, April 12, to celebrate the life of Nedenia Dye, MVC ’93, who passed away Dec. 22 at her home in Roatan, Honduras.

Nearly 60 friends and family members gathered on the Mount Vernon Campus to share fond memories of Nedenia and her “enormous heart” and enthusiasm for life. Speakers included brothers Steven and Timothy Dye, cousin Nina Rumbough, and numerous friends—including a large contingent of Mount Vernon alumnae. Elizabeth “Bizzy” Chance, MVC B.A. ’92, organized the event in conjunction with the Dye family.

Ms. Dye came from a long line of Mount Vernon alumnae, including great-grandmother Marjorie Mennerweather Post, who attended in 1901, grandmother Adelaide Riggs, who attended in 1926, and mother, Marjorie Dye, MVC ’48.

She last visited campus in September 2012, when she was the featured speaker at WLP History Night and enjoyed Alumnae Weekend festivities.

Memorial donations may be made to GW’s EJS Women’s Leadership Program for a fund honoring Nedenia. Please visit http://giving.gwu.edu or mail donations to GW Division of Development, 2100 M Street NW, Suite 310, Washington, D.C. 20052.

Elizabeth (Betsy) Orlando, MVC ’87, was the 2013 recipient of the Secretary of State Outstanding Overseas Volunteer Award for her charity work during her posting as the deputy economic chief of the U.S. Embassy in Abuja, Nigeria. An economic officer at the U.S. Department of State, she returned to Washington, D.C., in September for a posting with the Oceans, Environment, and Scientific Affairs Bureau in the International Health and Biodefense Office.

Rose (Moore) Tomin, MVC ’55, is the author of Duel of the Heart, a recently released historical novel about Theodosia Bure, daughter of Aaron. The Charleston, S.C., author says she would enjoy hearing from classmates and encourages her Mount Vernon friends to “check out” her book on Amazon and Facebook.

“Post Hall keeps the heart of the old Mount Vernon intact,” says Gloria Kennedy Berberich, MVC ’48, who has served on the GW Alumni Association Board of Directors since 2012. Sharing reflections of her recent experiences on the modern Mount Vernon Campus, she writes, “Miss Elizabeth Somers still eyes us from the hearth…in her beautiful white dress—yes, following us as we walk around the room. Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd’s pictures also bring her presence at Mount Vernon intact,” says Berberich.

Joanne Holbrook Patton, MVS ’46, returned to campus on April 14 to visit the Seminary Gate—the new, formal entrance to Mount Vernon honoring the legacy of Mount Vernon Seminary (inset above). During her visit, Mrs. Patton updated Mrs. Raymond on her recent lunch in Houston with former classmate Virginia (Wilson) Ewing, MVS ’48, MVS ’A. ’50 (above).

While waiting by the gate for Mrs. Patton to arrive, Elizabeth Raymond, executive director of development for the Mount Vernon Campus, bumped into alumnae Gunilla Gustafsson, MVC ’76, and Ann Astrid Olsson, MVC ’76, both visiting from Sweden, who attended Mount Vernon from 1974 to 1976 as foreign exchange students. The pair—in the United States for a holiday and to visit some Mount Vernon friends—joined Mrs. Raymond for coffee and conversation in Ames.

Launched in 2013, the Mount Vernon College Alumnae Travel Program, with exclusive trips to domestic and international destinations throughout the year. Each trip offers a unique blend of adventure, cultural immersion and education—and Mount Vernon alumnae have noticed. Several Mount Vernon graduates have already discovered various corners of the world through these trips, while others are on the books for upcoming adventures.

While abroad, alumnae have the unique opportunity to not only connect with peers, but also with current GW faculty members, who act as “hosts” of select trips. In addition, the program’s professional tour operators specialize in trips that combine stimulating learning experiences, knowledgeable guides, and personal attention.

“We are looking forward to seeing a part of the world where we have never been,” said Harriet Baulknight, MVC A.A. ’59, before she departed on the “Pearls of Southeast Asia” trip in March 2014. “It’s wonderful that these trips are offered.”

There’s still time to book a 2014 adventure! Fall trips include: Paris to Provence; Cruise the Mosel, Rhine & Main Rivers; Beijing & Shanghai; the “Historic Reflections” cruise through Greece, Turkey, Italy, Monaco, France and Spain; Flavors of Tuscany; and the Eastern and Oriental Express.

If you’re a woman who loves to travel, take advantage of this unique opportunity!”

For more information, visit alumni.gwu.edu/travel.

In Memoriam

Mary Duffield Schade, MVS ’41, Nov. 8, 2011, Essex, Mass.
Isobel Pelham, wife of the late President of Mount Vernon College Peter Pelham, Nov. 12, 2012, San Clemente, Calif.

And What About You?
Please send your news and address updates to mhaglin@gwu.edu.
Shannon's retirement fund provision will support student aid with a preference for women with financial need.

“I gave to Mount Vernon because of the education I received during my time there, and I give because no one should be denied an education because of money.”

– SHANNON MOUTON, MVC ’90

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- No change in lifestyle since your gift comes from leftover funds.
- Elimination of income and estate taxes that otherwise would be due.

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For more information, please contact Meg Haglin at
202-242-661 | Mhaglin@gwu.edu

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