

# Salem Academy

MAGAZINE

Spring 2016

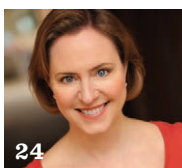


## THE PATH FORWARD

*Capital campaign opens exciting vistas  
for the Academy*



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# Salem Academy MAGAZINE

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**On the cover:** In December 2014, Salem Academy and College announced the \$60 million *Women of Purpose* campaign. Beginning on page six, we share a glimpse of the exciting vistas the campaign opens for the Academy.

*Photographed by Wayne Reich*

# Honest Talk About Education

Linus van Pelt, of Charlie Brown fame, once said, *"There are three things I have learned never to discuss with people: religion, politics, and the Great Pumpkin."* Well, these days, there's a fourth item that some would put on Linus' list of taboo subjects to discuss: the topic of education. **At a time when we really need to be having an intelligent conversation about education, it appears that it's becoming harder and harder to do that.**

**IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME,** just bring up any of the following subjects the next time you're having a cup of coffee with a friend: school choice, funding for the arts in schools, adopting the common core curriculum, merit pay or teacher tenure, Title IX, sexual harassment, bullying, the national decline in standardized tests, or the wisdom of teaching to the standardized tests. If your coffee companion has spent any time thinking about these issues, then he or she will likely have very strong opinions about them.

Of course, that's not always a bad thing, but it is clear that all of this squabbling is having a tremendous impact on student outcomes. The impact

is difficult to see in the short run, but over time the problems become real. Progress stalls, and we wake

up one day and realize that we've really done a poor job as a society of educating our children. No one is intentionally trying to do the kids a disservice...but they are.

So, what should we do about it? Well, if you could only find a place where students actually want to go to school. A place where studying the visual and performing arts was not an afterthought, but rather an expectation for every student. A place where the common core standards debate was settled a long, long time ago, and where girls discover that they're fabulous math and science students. A place where they've been writing research papers, and analyzing literature and speaking in public for over 200 years! A place where teachers are experts in their fields of study, and love their students, love their colleagues... and tolerate their headmaster.

If you could only find a school where girls could feel safe, and strong, and encouraged, and empowered—one that finds the beauty and the gifts in each single student and has a mission to celebrate that beauty and foster those gifts. A place where graduates head off to fabulous universities and are always...always...the very best prepared students in their college freshman classes. Of course, there's at least one such place; and it's been around for a very, very long time.

**Karl J. Sjolund**  
Head of School



SNYDER PHOTOGRAPHY





# Special Moments

When I assumed the presidency of Salem Academy and College on July 1, 2014, I knew that I would be leading an institution that has educated the nation's best and brightest girls and women for generations. **Salem Academy students are strong, confident leaders who have dedicated themselves to achieving an outstanding education in the humanities and the sciences, to excelling in athletics, and to selflessly serving the community.**

**THE SPIRIT OF ENERGY** and enthusiasm on the Salem Academy campus is palpable. Last March, when we launched the \$60 million *Women of Purpose* campaign, we took steps to ensure the viability of our beloved institution by demonstrating our support for all Academy students. Through the *Women of Purpose* campaign, Salem will provide the girls who study here with the opportunity to learn science and mathematics in state-of-the-art facilities, we will provide increased opportunities for the study of foreign languages, we will recruit and support students with the highest academic potential by offering more merit- and need-based scholarships, and we will provide our students with state-of-the-art athletic facilities.

We have already accomplished a great deal. We have surpassed the halfway-point of our campaign fundraising goal, and thanks to the steadfast generosity of Salem's supporters, we are working toward meeting our campaign objectives, including the construction of a new tennis center. We broke ground for the center in early December, and the courts will be ready for play later this year.

Salem Academy students continue to distinguish themselves academically. For example, last spring—

for the thirteenth time since 1975—the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill awarded a graduating Salem Academy senior the prestigious Morehead-Cain Scholarship. I invite you to read more about Mary Beth Browne A'15 on page fifteen.

Through the Salem Ever tour, which brought me to many cities in the United States, I have met hundreds of enthusiastic, committed, and dedicated Salem women who make up the extraordinary group of Academy alumnae. There will be more opportunities in the coming year to meet many more of you. Salem's 244-year legacy as the oldest continuously operating educational institution for women in the United States will thrive as we move confidently into the future.

Yours ever for Salem ever,  
**D. E. Lorraine Sterritt**  
President



# THE PATH FORWARD

*Capital campaign opens exciting vistas  
for the Academy*



**WOMEN *of*  
PURPOSE**  
*The BREAKTHROUGH CAMPAIGN  
for SALEM ACADEMY and COLLEGE*

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**THE WORLD NEEDS BRIGHT GIRLS  
TO BECOME CAPABLE WOMEN  
AND CAPABLE WOMEN TO BECOME  
CONFIDENT LEADERS.**

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It needs our perspective, our hope, and our creativity. It needs our curiosity, our discipline, and our sense of purpose.

It needs us in the laboratory and in the conservatory; in the classroom and in the boardroom; occupying positions of influence and leadership in law, medicine, business, science politics, education, the arts, and every form of service to our communities.

In December 2014, Salem Academy and College announced the \$60 million *Women of Purpose* capital campaign.

In the pages that follow, we would like to share a glimpse of the inspiring vistas the campaign opens for Salem Academy.

We hope you will be as excited about the future of the Academy as we are.

**To make Salem stronger, more widely known, and more accessible to girls and women of exceptional promise, the *Women of Purpose* capital campaign will fund four major priorities.**

## **INFRASTRUCTURE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**[\$40 MILLION]**

We must provide students with state-of-the-art facilities that will be suitable for educating the next generation of scientific researchers and health care professionals. As part of the campaign, renovations are planned for the Academy's chemistry, biology, and computer laboratories and classrooms. We are also updating vital components of our athletic facilities, including our tennis courts. These efforts will help to ensure the presence of Salem Academy in the first rank of college preparatory schools.

## **Updating the Academy's Residence Wings**

The 2014–15 academic year saw Academy enrollment increase by 12 percent, and currently boarding students make up over half of the student body.

Three of the Academy's four residence wings will be updated with twenty-first-century amenities during phased construction over the next several years. The Caroline Schaffner and Emma Bahnson wings, built in 1930, and the Mary McCoy Hodges wing, built in 1971, will see new flooring, wall maintenance, new furniture, and improved technology and data connections. Thanks to a grant from the John and Anna Hanes Foundation, all Academy dorm rooms will have central heat and air-conditioning by the time the renovations are completed.

## **Upgraded Technology for Academy Students and Faculty**

A grant from the McMichael Family Foundation is already providing Salem with the opportunity to upgrade





**WOMEN of  
PURPOSE**  
The BREAKTHROUGH CAMPAIGN  
for SALEM ACADEMY and COLLEGE

## SALEM ACADEMY DORMITORY RENOVATIONS

technology for Academy students and faculty. Funds will be used to support technological infrastructure upgrades, faculty development, and online advanced placement (AP) courses.

“The twenty-first-century classroom is rapidly evolving, and information is no longer limited by four walls or the knowledge of a teacher,” says Head of School Karl Sjolund. “As we prepare young women for careers in this changing environment, technological abilities could mean the difference between success and failure.”

### **A New Sciences and Mathematics Building**

Studies show that women in the United States remain underrepresented in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

To meet the challenge of increasing the presence of women in these fields, Salem is seeking \$20 million to build a new state-of-the-art facility that will provide for the education of Salem students who will be the next generation of innovators, researchers, and healthcare professionals.

“This is the moment for Salem to take the lead in providing students with the best possible education in the

sciences and in mathematics at this critical stage in their education,” says President Sterritt.

There has already been remarkable support for the new facility. An anonymous donation of \$1 million has named the biology and environmental studies wing of the new building in honor of trustee Lucy Rose C’76. Momentum has continued with an additional gift of \$1 million from the Reynolds American Foundation. Through access to and use of an up-to-date multipurpose science laboratory/classroom located in the new science building, Academy students will benefit from significant enhancements to the already first-rate education that they receive in the sciences and in mathematics.

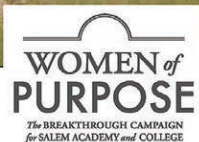
### **A New Tennis Facility for Salem**

To help Salem Academy and College continue to attract exceptional student-athletes, Salem is building a new tennis facility. The Bert Lain Tennis Center has been named by an extraordinarily generous donor in honor of Mr. Lain’s lifelong support of women’s athletics.

Plans for the new tennis center include twelve new courts with state-of-the-art surfacing, new posts, nets, vinyl-coated fencing, and windscreens. The facility will



**SALEM ACADEMY AND COLLEGE  
TENNIS FACILITY RENOVATIONS**



also feature new aluminum bleachers, benches, hydration stations, a crosswalk with two entry gateways, and a new site sign. Information regarding the naming opportunities that are available for these projects may be obtained from the Office of Institutional Advancement.

The total cost of the project is approximately \$800,000, and generous benefactors have already made it possible for construction to begin.

## **FACULTY SUPPORT AND ACADEMIC PROGRAMS** [\$5 MILLION]

To bolster its commitment to provide a rigorous college preparatory education, Salem Academy will expand its support for faculty development and will furnish increased opportunities for the study of foreign languages and other programs in the curriculum.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HIGHLY QUALIFIED STUDENTS** [\$5 MILLION]

Scholarships are critical to providing the opportunity for more students to pursue their academic goals. “We want to attract students of the highest caliber,” says Salem President D. E. Lorraine Sterritt. One of the campaign’s

priorities is the funding of the \$1 million Academy Day-Student Full Scholarship, which will give day students who have demonstrated promise and potential the opportunity to attend Salem Academy.

## **FINANCIAL STABILITY** [\$10 MILLION]

Salem will also focus on sustaining annual financial growth by inspiring more alumnae and friends to continue their support of women’s education. Increased financial stability will allow Salem Academy to focus on projects that will fortify its position as a preeminent preparatory school for girls.

“My Salem experience was transformative for me,” says Jenni Lynch A’77, who co-chaired the *Women of Purpose* campaign before assuming the position of vice president for institutional advancement at Salem Academy and College in September

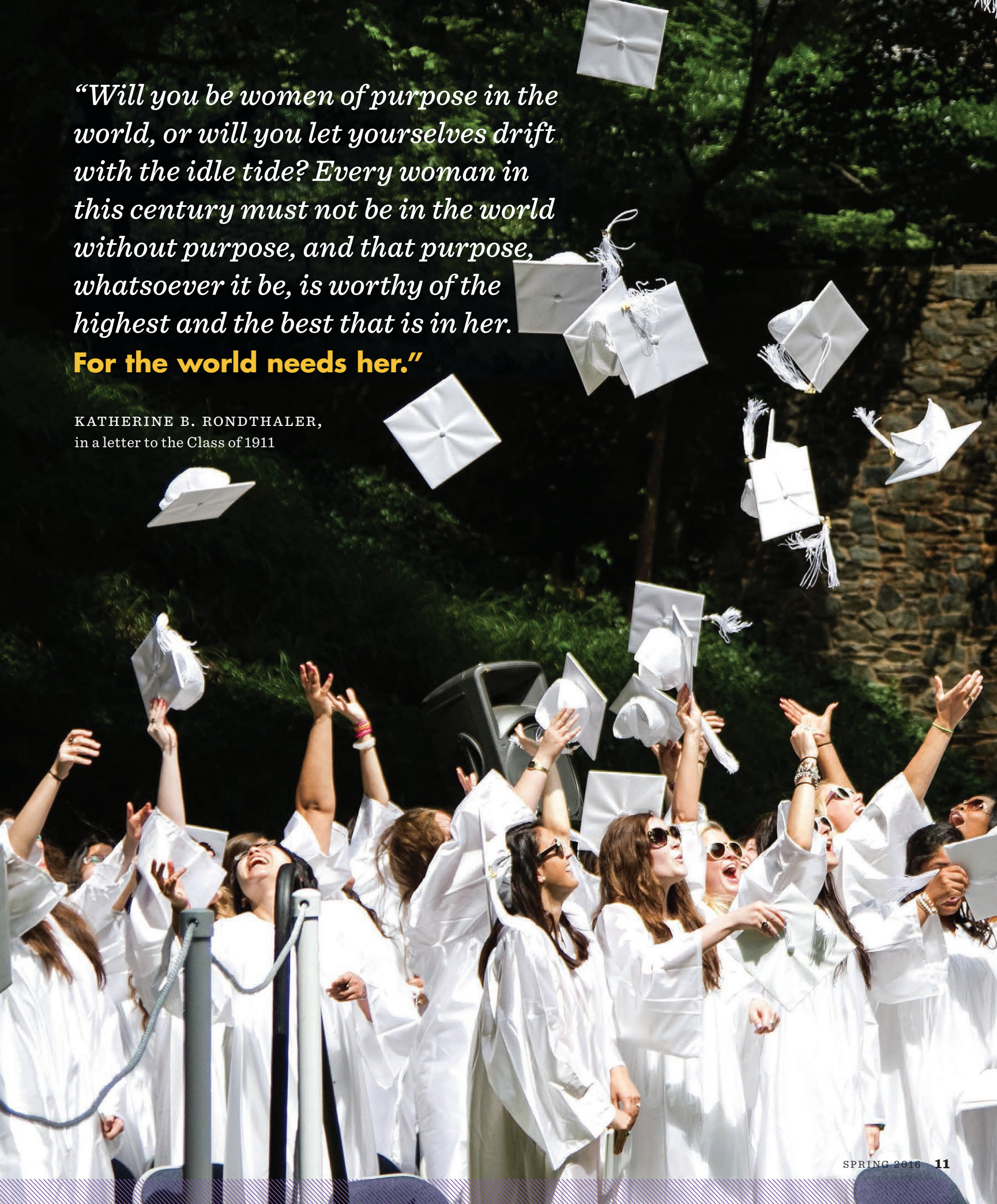
2015. “It opened doors I never imagined and gave me the ability to successfully pursue my passions. It gave me lasting and supportive friendships. It is a privilege to support a campaign that will help more girls and women to realize their dreams through the Salem experience.”

“Our students want to be actively involved in making a substantial contribution to their communities and to the wider world. Now is our time to support these promising young women with bold and generous investments in infrastructure, academic programs, faculty development, scholarships, and long-term financial stability,” said President Sterritt.

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**To learn more about how you can contribute to the *Women of Purpose* capital campaign, visit [purpose.salem.edu](http://purpose.salem.edu).**

*Please remember that no gift is too small. Donations of any size are most welcome.*



*“Will you be women of purpose in the world, or will you let yourselves drift with the idle tide? Every woman in this century must not be in the world without purpose, and that purpose, whatsoever it be, is worthy of the highest and the best that is in her.*

**For the world needs her.”**

KATHERINE B. RONDHALER,  
in a letter to the Class of 1911

## Head of School Karl Sjolund Recruited to Lead St. Andrew's--Sewanee

**Karl Sjolund**, Head of School at Salem Academy, has been recruited to be the new Head of School at St. Andrew's-Sewanee (SAS) in Sewanee, Tennessee.

He will begin his new position on July 1, 2016.

During Karl's nine-year tenure at the Academy, both student and faculty retention rates have

increased significantly. The Advisor program has been expanded, technology improvements have been made throughout the campus, and communication

with parents and other constituencies has been enhanced through weekly newsletters. Several initiatives have also been launched, including Salem Sports Camp, Robotics, online learning, and the Academy Auction.

This year, day student enrollment at Salem Academy is the highest that it has been since the economic downturn that began in 2008.

"The Salem community will miss Karl's dedication, his kindness, and his humor, but we are pleased about this new opportunity for the Sjolund family, and we wish them all the very best as they make their new home in Tennessee," said President Sterritt.

A nationwide search for Mr. Sjolund's successor was launched in October 2015. Before press time, it was announced that Mrs. Lisa Pence, currently Upper School Director at Holton-Arms School in Bethesda, Maryland, has accepted the position of Head of School at Salem Academy. More details can be found on the Academy's website: [www.salemacademy.com](http://www.salemacademy.com). Look for complete coverage of Mrs. Pence's arrival in the next edition of this magazine.



## Jenni Lynch A'77 Named Vice President for Institutional Advancement

**Jennifer (Jenni) Reinhardt Lynch A'77** has joined Salem Academy and College as vice president for institutional advancement.

Lynch comes to Salem after serving as a senior vice president, senior trust and fiduciary specialist, Certified Financial Planner, and relationship manager at Wells Fargo Private Bank, N.A. She holds a BA in classics, *magna cum laude*, from Randolph-Macon Woman's College and a JD from Wake Forest University School of Law.

Before joining Wells Fargo, Lynch practiced law in several areas, including family, real property finance

and development, general civil litigation, and trust and planning at the law firms of Fisher Fisher Gayle Clinard and Craig, P.A., in High Point, North Carolina; Lowndes Drosdick Doster Kantor and Reid, P.A., in Orlando, Florida; and Roberson Haworth and Reese, P.L.L.C., in High Point, North Carolina.

Lynch has also served her alma mater in numerous capacities, most recently as a member of the Salem Academy Alumnae Board, as an Academy alumna trustee on the Salem Academy and College Board of Trustees, and as co-chair of the Women of Purpose capital campaign. She previously served on the

Salem Academy and College Board of Visitors from 2008 to 2011, and she was a co-sponsor of the Board of Visitors Scholarship Fund.

Jenni Lynch succeeds Vicki Williams Sheppard C'82, who retired in August 2015 after twenty-two years of service to Salem. (*See our story on Vicki Sheppard on page thirty-six.*)



## “Miss T” to Retire After Forty-Four Years

Assistant Head of School and Dean of Students **Mary Lorick (“Miss T”) Thompson** will be leaving the Academy this summer when she retires after forty-four years of dedicated service to Salem.

Known for her daily announcements and her infamous blue notes, Miss T has made countless contributions to student life at Salem. She has served as a chaperone on numerous international trips, taught January Term classes, arranged student travel agendas, participated in drama productions, and planned major institutional events.

“I have worked with many wonderful educators during my career, but there’s only one Miss T,” said Head of School Karl Sjolund. “If I could only choose one

person to educate my girls, I want you to know that I would pick Mary Lorick Thompson every day of the week and twice on Sunday.”

A national search for Mary Lorick Thompson’s successor is underway and updates will be provided on the Academy’s website. In order for the transition period to be as smooth as possible, the Academy plans to have Miss T’s and Karl Sjolund’s successors in place before both administrators leave Salem this summer.

Reunion Weekend 2016 will offer a special opportunity for alumnae and friends to honor Miss T and her legacy at Salem Academy.



*“I have worked with many wonderful educators during my career, but there’s only one Miss T. If I could only choose one person to educate my girls, I want you to know that I would pick Mary Lorick Thompson every day of the week and twice on Sunday.” – Karl Sjolund*

## 2015 Oesterlein Award Winner



**Anqi Duan A'15**, a boarding student from Beijing, China, was the recipient of the 2015 Elisabeth Oesterlein Award, which is named for Salem's first teacher and recognizes an outstanding senior who has made notable contributions to the quality of life at Salem, has demonstrated strong leadership, and has diligently pursued academic distinction.

Duan was recognized for her consistent commitment to academics during her years studying at Salem. A member of the National Honor Society, Duan maintained a 4.4 grade point average.

With a passion for singing, she was an enthusiastic participant in Salem's Glee Club and Spirit ensembles. She played volleyball, basketball, and was a member of the swim team. As House Council President, she sought new ways to improve boarding life at Salem.

Duan is now a first-year student at the University of Southern California at San Diego.

## Red Boot Coalition Brings Positivity to Salem Community

Salem Academy is the first high school in the nation to start a chapter of the Red Boot Coalition.

Created by the founder of Girls on the Run, Molly Barker, the Red Boot Coalition encourages an open space for nationwide conversation about politics, religion, economics, and ethnicity. Group discussions center on eleven principles, which include empowerment, transparency, love, gratefulness, and joy.

"Stand strong. Stay true. Be yourself. And love, love, love... never, ever forget the love," said

Barker when she visited campus last fall.

Red boots stand as a symbol of courage and joy for Barker. They've become an icon—a surefire conversation starter. They inspire the sharing of stories and they encourage collaboration between old and new friends.

Meeting once a week, Salem students have the opportunity to discuss global issues in a safe, welcoming environment. The success of Salem's chapter was highlighted on Fox8's Buckley Report earlier this year.



## SALEM SABERS GOING STRONG

Visit [www.salemacademy.com/athletics](http://www.salemacademy.com/athletics) for schedules, team rosters, and more information about athletics at Salem Academy!



## Academy Senior Awarded Morehead-Cain Scholarship

Last spring, **Mary Beth Browne A'15** received the prestigious Morehead-Cain Scholarship for study at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The highly competitive award covers full tuition, board, student fees, and miscellaneous expenses over four years of study, including summer enrichment programs. Established in 1951, the Morehead-Cain Scholarship (originally the Morehead Scholarship) was the first merit-based scholarship to be offered in the United States. Over the years, more than three thousand students, including twelve past graduates of Salem Academy, have attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as Morehead or Morehead-Cain Scholars. Browne is the daughter of Charles and Lu Anne Browne of Mount Airy, North Carolina. She enrolled at Salem Academy in 2011 and received Salem's Sister's Merit Scholarship. She served as president of the National Honor Society and the Drama Club, as well as in

leadership positions in many other campus organizations. She was Second Honor Graduate for the Class of 2015.

"Salem has been the best experience of my life, and coming here was the best decision I ever made," says Browne. "I believe that Salem Academy has prepared me for absolutely anything that life could throw at me, especially college."

In addition to receiving the Morehead-Cain Scholarship, Browne was named as a finalist for the Park Scholarship at North Carolina State University and was also accepted to the United States Naval Academy.

We caught up with Mary Beth recently via email to see what she's up to and here's what she shared with us: "I am now a declared political science major, with the intention of eventually doubling in either religious studies, philosophy, or (a UNC-specific, cool major) peace, war, and defense. I am involved with Carolina International Relations Association (think Model UN),



where I help host conferences for other college students and high schoolers on UNC's campus in addition to traveling to other universities to compete in their conferences. I am also involved in American Mock World Health Organization, where I serve on the executive board as co-director for Campus Affairs. This is the first semester the club has

been an on-campus organization (as opposed to only hosting a national conference) so it is a unique challenge to build a club from the ground up. There are a few other things that I am more tangentially involved with or am waiting to hear back on official positions, but CIRA and AMWHO are my current core organizations!"

## Students Participate in Disney Sings Program



In February 2015, members of the Salem Academy Chorus, Glee Club, and Spirit ensembles traveled to Walt Disney World Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, to participate in the Disney Sings program.

Under the direction of choral instructor Joy Rushton, forty-one students performed Disney-inspired pieces at Disney Springs' Waterside Stage. One piece was inspired by the hit Disney film, *Frozen*, while the other was a Disney princess medley, including selections from "A Dream is a Wish Your Heart Makes (*Cinderella*)," "Part of Your World (*The Little Mermaid*)," "A Whole New World (*Aladdin*)," "Colors of the Wind (*Pocahontas*)," and "Reflection (*Mulan*)."

Students also participated in a specially tailored vocal workshop, which offered a behind-the-scenes look at the choreography for Disney parades and the audition process to be a performer at Disney parks.

## Robotics Team Earns Multiple Accolades

The Salem Academy robotics team, Sisters of the Motherboard, has racked up a pile of awards this year, thanks to a remarkable robot the students designed and built. Named Sassmantha by the team, the robot's feats earned the students an appearance at the North Carolina Aggieldand State Championship as part of the *FIRST* Tech Challenge competition.

Along the way, the Sisters won numerous awards at both the qualifying and state level. For example, at the Northern Guilford Qualifying Tournament, the Sisters won two awards: a third place Rockwell Collins Innovate Award, which "celebrates a team that not only thinks outside of the box, but also has the ingenuity and inventiveness to make their designs come to

life"; and a first place Motivate Award, which "celebrates the team that exemplifies the essence of the *FIRST* Tech Challenge competition through team building, team spirit and exhibited enthusiasm." At the Southern Guilford Qualifying Tournament, the Academy team picked up three awards: a second place Think Award, which rewards a team for "removing engineering obstacles through creative thinking"; a second place Connect Award, "given to the team that most connects with their local STEM community"; and the first place Inspire Award, given to a team that is an inspiration to other teams and which acts with "gracious professionalism both on and off the playing field." By winning the first place Inspire Award,



the Sisters of the Motherboard automatically placed into the North Carolina Aggieldand State Championship, and there they continued their winning ways, picking up a second place Think Award and a first place Motivate Award.

The 2015-2016 Sisters team consisted of fifteen students and two alternates. During the course of the year, twenty-seven students participated in the Robotics Club. The Academy would ideally like to have two teams in the not-too-distant future.

## A Community of Honor

At Closing Chapel last spring, Citizenship Honor Awards were presented to students from each class who demonstrated the characteristics of good citizenship through their honesty, integrity, and kindness. Nominated by their peers, (from left): **Anqi Duan A'15**; **Meta Kate White A'16**; **Sarah Perkins A'17**; **Chandler Pettigrew A'16**; **Alexis Hubbard A'17**; **Emily Bannigan A'16**; **Salem Kirkman A'16**; **Ana Sapp A'18**; and **Parrish Finn A'16** received the honor for the 2014-15 academic year.



## Meet the 2015 Sisters Merit Scholar

Last spring, **Abigail Wucherer** was named as the recipient of the 2015 Salem Academy Sisters Merit Scholarship, a competitive award that enables an incoming first-year boarding student to attend Salem tuition-free for four years. Abigail is the daughter of Rick and Talia Wucherer of Belmont, NC.

The scholarship application describes the recipient as a student "who will enrich Salem with her presence, inspire her fellow students, and extend the reputation of Salem beyond her years as a student." A Sisters Merit Scholar is committed to academic distinction and to a lifetime of learning.



## Juniors and Seniors Share What They Learned from Internships

Salem Academy juniors and seniors, with the help of their Jan Term Advisors, carefully selected an internship where they learned from professionals in their chosen field. Then a few days into the spring semester, Sharing Day, held on February 3, 2016, offered the perfect opportunity to share internship experiences with the entire school.



## Emily Bannigan A'16 Named National Merit Finalist

When **Emily Bannigan** took the PSAT last year, she was one of 1.5 million other students taking the exam. What she didn't know at the time was that she would surpass 99 percent of them, and join the coveted ranks of National Merit Scholarship Finalists.

The Salem Academy senior learned in the fall that she had earned a spot as a semifinalist.

All semifinalists are given the opportunity to apply for scholarships, but they must send in an application with an original essay. Emily, of course, wrote the essay and advanced, yet again.

Now, Emily is waiting patiently to find out if she will be one of the recipients of a National Merit

scholarship later this year. Only about half of the 15,000 finalists will receive scholarships, but Emily has overcome greater odds than that already.

When the next announcement is released, Emily will factor that into her college decision, along with her other options. She has already been accepted to UNC-Chapel Hill and the University of Virginia, and she is still waiting to hear from a number of other schools.

In her time at Salem Academy, Emily has served as class president four years running. She has made the Headmaster's List every semester with all As in every class, and by the time she

graduates, she will have taken eleven AP courses. She has also served as commencement marshal for three years and achieved Maxima Cum Laude and Summa Cum Laude honors on the National Latin Exam.

In addition to her multiple academic achievements, Emily still finds time to be involved with theatre, cross country, and swimming.



# SHATTERING the IT Glass Ceiling



COURTESY OF ELI LILLY

**FOR FEMALE CIOs** (chief information officers), it's lonely at the top. According to a January 2015 article by cio.com, women represent only 20 percent of CIOs in Fortune 250 companies.

Salem Academy alumna **Ina Kamenz A'73** is among the inspiring group of women who have shattered the IT glass ceiling, and as CIO and senior vice president at pharma-

ceutical giant Eli Lilly and Company, she is paving the way for other talented women to follow in her footsteps.

Kamenz gives her alma mater a great deal of credit for preparing her for success.

"Salem Academy helped me to develop confidence and an ability to speak up—with self-assurance in my own style—in a man's world," she says.

Kamenz's teachers at the Academy encouraged her innate love of math, science, and the arts. By the time she graduated, she had earned enough advanced placement credits to skip several introductory classes and fast-forward to upper-level courses at Wake Forest University.

Kamenz didn't set out to build her career in information technology. In fact, during her college years, computer science was just making its debut in the curriculum.

"Wake Forest offered three computer courses at the time, and I enrolled in all of them," she says.

Those courses opened up new worlds for Kamenz, including statistical analysis and database design, and she learned to write code as the computer revolution was beginning—before "Apple," "dot com," and even "emails" became household words.

Her ability to process transactions and to generate and interpret data with relevance landed Kamenz a position with Electronic Data Systems (EDS), a company started by Ross Perot. EDS was the first company of its kind.

"No one knew anything about this kind of work," explains Kamenz.

EDS was contracted to build and execute an automated insurance claims processing system for Blue Cross and Blue Shield. This was the first time such a system had ever been created and it thus became the beginnings of business process outsourcing.

Within a few years, Kamenz developed a reputation for offering valuable consulting and technology skills. She quickly rose from project manager to systems analyst, then to director, and ultimately to principal at one of the top ten consulting firms sought out by government agencies. During this early phase of her career, she achieved many firsts, including developing a manufacturing system that automated the engraving of money for the US Bureau of Engraving and Printing; integrating systems to support the Department of Education's Pell Grant Disbursement; and developing a database for products used by the Defense Logistics Agency and by six US military services.

As she "grew up along with the growing information technology field," Kamenz says that she became interested in the bigger picture of information technology and communications systems.

"I explored what technology could do for a company and all of its working parts. I decided it was time to use my IT leadership skills and to go inside the business in order to drive change as a member of a team, and not as an outside consultant," she adds.

That decision positioned Kamenz inside some of the world's top corporations where she implemented sound communications strategies in roles that had been exclu-

sively held by men. From 1993 to 2003, she helped lead Marriott International through a formative period and cultivated a community-wide organization of firms to address the Y2K challenge. Next, she helped to strengthen executive leadership and reshape Tyco International following that company's crisis of leadership in the early 2000s. From 2007 to 2014, as the first CIO of Thermo Fisher Scientific, Kamenz developed strategies that led the \$10 billion company to create business-friendly

solutions for consumers during a time when Amazon and Google were launching new business models and when Microsoft and Apple were creating new user models. Within every company, Kamenz says she learned how to work with people and how to build remarkable teams by seeking to understand every aspect of the work they contributed.

Today, as the global CIO at Eli Lilly and Company, this woman of purpose leads a worldwide organization to create, implement, and support IT solutions that help deliver Lilly's innovative medicines in order to make life better for people around the world.

"There are many opportunities for women in science. Women bring to the table perspectives and ideas that are needed in solving today's challenges," says Kamenz, who built her successful career on a few guiding principles that are rooted in her Salem Academy education:

- Set high aspirations
- Learn every aspect about your subject and find relatable application with the world around you
- Be a part of the team
- Listen for the problem, not just the symptom
- Don't be afraid to fail or to start over
- Keep a sharp eye on emerging trends

"Nothing in major business today is accomplished without technology," Kamenz says. "It's an exploding industry in which there is no shortage of jobs, only a shortage of well-prepared people from diverse backgrounds and experiences."

Kamenz is confident that Salem Academy students are prepared to flourish in these roles. "With Salem's focus on science, technology, math, and the other liberal arts, I believe our future will be in very capable hands," she affirms.

**“Salem Academy helped me to develop confidence and an ability to speak up—with self-assurance in my own style—in a man’s world.”**

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**In August 2015, Ina Kamenz joined the CIO Hall of Fame as one of five 2015 inductees honored by International Data Group (IDG) Enterprise. In addition, Eli Lilly and Company was recognized as one of one hundred organizations that have distinguished themselves by creating business value through the innovative use of technology.**



These Academy alumnae are helping others

# LIVE FREE FROM

THE EFFECTS OF A

# NEGATIVE

# BODY IMAGE



Their paths toward body acceptance may differ, but Jessamyn Stanley A'05 and Erin Leger A'05 both inspire and teach others to see the beauty in themselves.

**BY TINA FIRESHEETS**

**JESSAMYN STANLEY** is a yoga teacher with a growing legion of Instagram followers from around the globe. She stands out because she doesn't look like a typical yogi. Stanley, who is five feet, six inches tall, posts photos and videos of herself in various yoga poses in her living room and elsewhere. Her grace and fluidity have prompted many people to ask for her help with their own yoga practice.

**ERIN LEGER** always participated in sports—gymnastics, track, cross country, and field hockey—but her love for dance has taken her around the world, and she inspires others. The personal trainer and dance instructor tours with the Durham-based Cobo Brothers Dance Company, which offers salsa and Latin dance classes and performances. Leger says even athletes and dancers have body insecurities. She promotes being active for health reasons, not for appearance.

## A Closer Look

Follow Jessamyn on Instagram  
@mynameisjessamyn

Visit [ncsalsa.com](https://www.ncsalsa.com) for more  
information on Erin's classes in  
Durham, NC



The first time **Jessamyn Stanley** tried yoga, she hated it.

It was Bikram, a form of hot yoga, which is practiced in a heated room of 100 degrees or higher. But she tried it again. And again. Yoga helped her through trying times. A breakup. Grad school. The deaths of her aunt and grandmother.

“Practicing yoga, especially hot yoga, was particularly transformative,” Stanley says. “It offered relief and a way to calm down by focusing on something completely different—purely physical. It was something I could control. Everything that happened in that room and with that practice was mine.”

But Stanley couldn't afford classes, and she started practicing at home. She began to photograph and video

record her poses and flows on a blog as a way to track her progress. When people began asking her help with their own practice, it prompted her to start training to be a yoga instructor. Today, yoga is a way of life for Stanley and through her teaching—and through the wonders of Instagram—she has inspired followers from around the world to enjoy the health benefits of yoga and to overcome unrealistic body images.

“My philosophy is that if you believe you can do it, you can do it,” she says. “My experience at Salem was important toward helping establish this mindset. At Salem, there are so many opportunities to learn about yourself and to learn about other people and really become comfortable with who you are.”



“Having a positive body image is having good health. Skinny isn’t always healthy. Being strong is healthy, and eating right is healthy.”

- Erin Leger A’05

BELOW: Erin, left, with sisters Elise Leger A’03 and Amanda Leger A’06



**E**rin Leger earned a degree in structural engineering at Duke University, then worked more than two years with a firm in Raleigh.

But a desk job wasn’t for her.

Leger, who danced with the Cobo Brothers Dance Company in college, has been a professional dancer and instructor with the dance company for seven years. She has performed in many countries, including China, Australia, Mexico, and Siberia.

Dancers are scrutinized constantly, she says. “For me, having a positive body image is having good health. Skinny isn’t always healthy. Being strong is healthy, and eating right is healthy.”

Leger says even she had body insecurities. But at Salem, her attention was focused on her studies. It wasn’t until she left Salem that she became more aware of her own body image.

Jenny Orr, Academy mental health counselor, says 90 percent of her work with students involves body image issues.

“When a student feels self-assured about who she is and how she looks, then I feel we have succeeded in helping her to develop that positive body image,” Orr says.

Leger, who will soon begin doctoral work in physical therapy, shares this philosophy: “I truly believe that everybody is beautiful in their own way.”



**FOLLOW THIS  
ALUMNA'S ADVICE  
AND YOU MAY SEE  
YOUR NAME IN LIGHTS**

**BY JAMIE MUNGLE RORRER C'99**

**PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVID ROLFE**





## ALLYSON CURRIN A'82

developed a love for theatre at an early age. It was her years at the Academy that ignited this life-long passion, which would eventually lead to a successful career as a playwright.

Now, Allyson is an award-winning playwright, living

in Washington, DC. She has been in the field for more than twenty-five years and has written more than thirty plays. She also teaches history and theatre at George Washington University and can occasionally be seen acting, too.

She says her writing leans towards comedy, although she has written plays in all genres. "I like a lot of word play, and my plays are driven by the nuances of language," she says. Much of her inspiration comes from history. "My teachers at Salem instilled a love of history and literature in me, and that is really where I have been inspired."

Salem's theatre program was instrumental in preparing Allyson for a career in the performing arts. "I was involved in the theatre program, Drama Club, and Glee Club. We worked hard and learned a lot about performance. All of the theatre classes were college level,

so I was very well prepared for college," she says. Following her graduation in 1982, she earned her BA in theatre and English from Wake Forest University and her MFA in directing from the University of Virginia.

Salem not only prepared Allyson for her life's work, but it also provided her with the vision for one of her new plays, *Return to Latin*. The idea came to her following a Salem reunion and after she began to notice a trend of fifty-something female actors being typecast in unflattering roles.

The play is about four women in their fifties who are going back to their high school reunion at an all-girls school.

"It is a comedy with some darker strands—some funny, some sad. It explores what it's like to return home and to deal with the memories of your younger self and who you thought you were going to become," she says. "Salem really was the most important institution of my teen years, so that gave me a great foundation for this play. I wanted to write something for women in this age group that better represents who they really are." The play is in the final writing stages and will then move on to production.

When asked what advice Allyson has for aspiring theatre professionals, she says that her success was built on four foundational pieces:

"First, get a solid liberal arts education. You will need to understand literature, history, languages, other artistic disciplines, and politics in order to be a successful, marketable artist," she says. "Second, don't mess around with second-rate training programs. Seek professional instruction that is comprehensive, challenging, and respected. Third, surround yourself with artists whose talent you respect, and who believe in you."

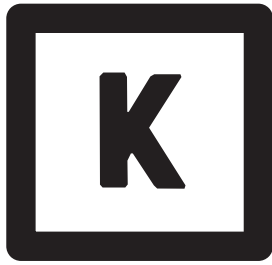
Allyson's parting advice is age-old wisdom, applicable to all professions: be nice to EVERYONE.

**"My teachers at Salem instilled a love of history and literature in me, and that is really where I have been inspired."**





# THE THEATRE PROGRAM AT SALEM



**KERRY LAWSON** has been at the helm of the Salem Academy theatre program for the last twenty years. She says the program is successful because of the support it receives. “The administration is very supportive of the arts and is always willing to help

with whatever we need. And we couldn’t do what we do without the parents. They are very committed to helping the program succeed as well,” she says.

The program operates on a modified cycle with two major stage performances each year. There are other chances for students to perform in their classes, along with extracurricular activities like Drama Club and Drama Llamas, a children’s theatre troupe. Lawson rotates genres for the major productions, and a musical is performed every other year. The curriculum is designed in such a way that students not only learn performance techniques but also all aspects of theatre production, including directing, costume design, make-up, lighting, set design, and publicity. There is a special class for seniors who have an interest in theatre as a career. The class helps them with college auditions, résumés, headshots, and learning about theatrical unions.

The spring 2015 theatre production was George Bernard Shaw’s classic, *Pygmalion*. The play was selected to teach students about Victorian style and history. To prepare, students participated in dialect workshops, where they learned how to speak with British accents.

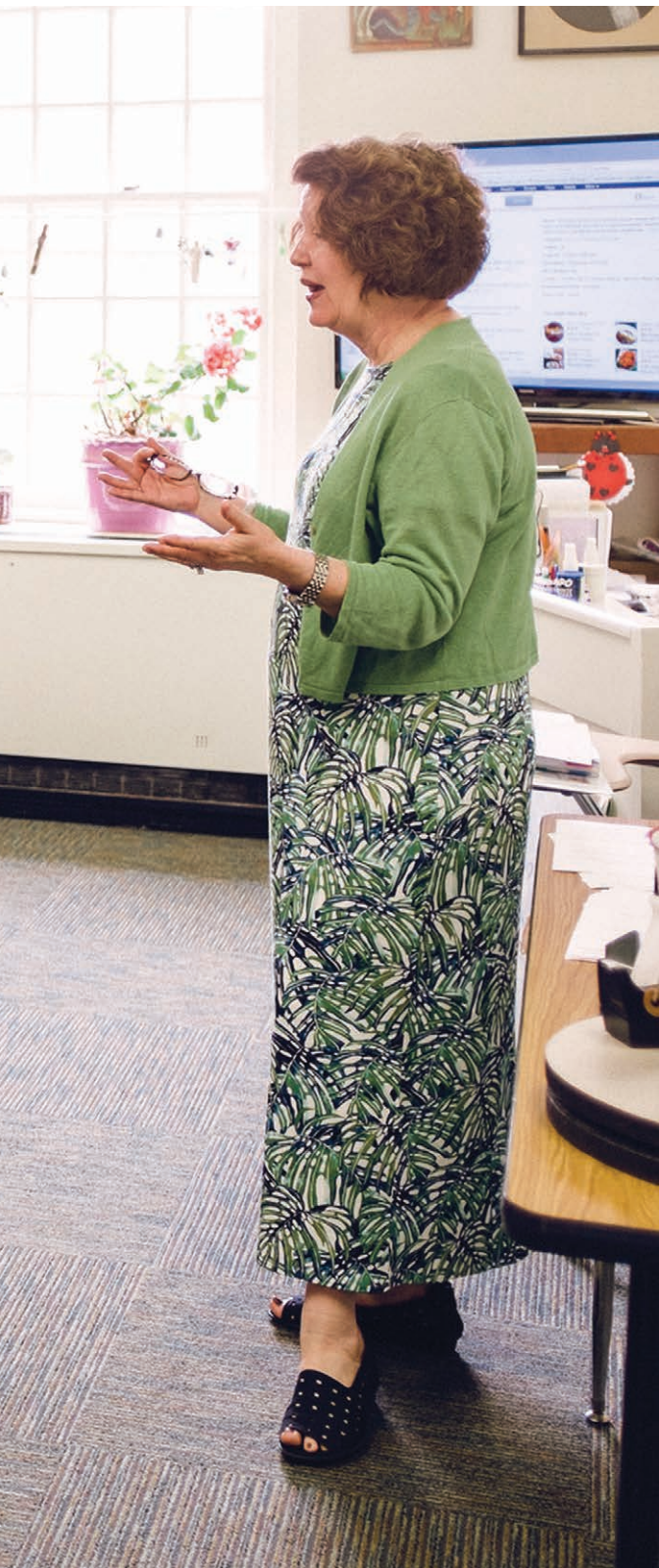
**Salem Academy Theatre will present Andrew Lippa’s *A Little Princess* this spring. Performances will be held April 21–24 and 28–30, 2016, and admission is free.**

## Salem Academy Theatre Productions

Fall 2015	<i>Murder for the Bride</i>
Spring 2015	<i>Pygmalion</i>
Fall 2014	<i>The Nerd</i>
Spring 2014	<i>Annie</i>
Fall 2013	<i>Twelve Angry Women</i>
Spring 2013	<i>Macbeth</i>
Fall 2012	<i>Christmas Belles</i>
Spring 2012	<i>Thoroughly Modern Millie</i>
Fall 2011	<i>The Mousetrap</i>
Spring 2011	<i>Prunella or Love in a Dutch Garden</i>
Fall 2010	<i>Kindertransport</i>
Spring 2010	<i>Jane Eyre</i>







# THIS BELOVED TEACHER'S CLASSROOM HAS NO WALLS

By Tina Firesheets  
Photography by Wayne Reich

**BETSY OVERTON FELL IN LOVE** with Salem Academy when her daughter, Wynne A'96, became a boarding student. In fact, she loved it so much she dreamed of teaching at the Academy someday.

That dream came true in 2008, when she was hired to teach history at her daughter's alma mater. She is now chair of the History Department and teaches European history and Honors Renaissance and Reformation history. She has also taught United States history and decorative arts.

"It was a great day in my life when I was hired at Salem," Overton says. "I love every day. This has been fabulous."

By the time Overton arrived at the Academy, she had already distinguished herself as a charismatic and versatile teacher. She began her career as an English teacher at R. J. Reynolds High School in Winston-Salem. Later, when her husband's law career took the family to Ahoskie, North Carolina, she taught history at the public high school there. (She had done graduate work in historic preservation at Wake Forest University and has always been fascinated by history.) Wherever Overton has taught, her love of her subject matter has made a deep impression on her students.

Salem Academy junior Courtney Clawson was enrolled in Overton's Honors Renaissance and Reformation history class last year. She also takes private piano lessons with her. Clawson says that Overton's passion for both is contagious. Clawson had even

“It is obvious that Mrs. Overton loves teaching history and piano, and I know that she enjoys coming to work every day—something that not many people can say.”

– Courtney Clawson



considered giving up piano, but she changed her mind because of her teacher’s enthusiasm and knowledge of music. She says that Overton inspires respect and is also willing to accommodate her students.

“Mrs. Overton has achieved that fine balance of being respected and liked by all of her students,” says Clawson.

Overton believes that history’s relevance is timeless. “I love teaching history through stories,” she says.

Senior Claire Ruch also took Overton’s Honors Renaissance and Reformation history course. In January 2015 she and her mother were part of a group of students and parents who toured Italy with Overton.

Ruch says Overton’s class motivated her to join the trip.

“I felt it was a perfect opportunity to gain more knowledge, even after Mrs. Overton’s class, and to bring everything I had learned to life.”

The art and architecture in Italy inspired Ruch to consider studying art history in college.

Overton’s dedication to Salem isn’t confined to the classroom. She frequently arranges flowers for various Salem Academy and College events. It’s a hobby she developed at her mother’s knee when she was a child. Overton also leads a very popular greenery workshop at the Academy each December, inviting alumnae and members of the Winston-Salem community to visit campus to create holiday decorations for their homes.

She also invites Salem parents to her home while their



daughters are going through the admissions process. It gives parents a chance to ask teachers questions they may not feel comfortable raising with their daughters, Overton says.

Wynne Overton, now associate director of admissions for Salem Academy, says her mother has boundless energy. “She thrives on having multiple projects at once. Quiet days aren’t in her vocabulary.”

Something else that makes Overton truly special is that she invites students to her home, which is within walking distance of campus. She and her husband, Larry, and their son, Shields, had professors who invited students to their homes. The gesture made an impact on them, she says.

“I always thought that it was wonderful,” says Overton.

Ruch describes Overton’s home as “a special place.”

“As a boarding student, it is comforting to know that you can be in a homey environment even when you are away from your city, state, or country.”

At Overton’s house, students can watch history or art videos and enjoy a home-cooked meal.

“I have grown to love her as a teacher and as a person,” Courtney Clawson says. “I am so fortunate to have met her. She has become like a friend to me.”

Clawson says the most important thing she has learned from Overton is to do something that she loves.

“It is obvious that Mrs. Overton loves teaching history and piano, and I know that she enjoys coming to work every day—something that not many people can say.”



**Kasey Tucker A'04** is connected to Salem's new president, D. E. Lorraine Sterritt, in a surprising way that developed long before Dr. Sterritt became the twentieth president of Salem Academy and College.

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BY JAMIE MUNGLE RORRER C'99

# UNEXPECTED



Kasey Tucker and Bert Lain were photographed together at Kasey's 2008 Stanford graduation (opposite, below) and again with President Sterritt on Inauguration Day: April 24, 2015.



# CONNECTIONS

**WHILE KASEY TUCKER WAS ATTENDING** Stanford University, she studied Latin under Dr. Lorraine Sterritt's husband, Norbert (Bert) Lain. Lain also became her academic advisor for her major in Classics.

"He had a unique teaching style, and he took a genuine interest in his students' backgrounds and their future plans," says Tucker. "He would always find a way to relate our Classics studies to our intended pursuits."

Lain recalls encountering the Salem Academy grad during her freshman year, when she enrolled in his Intensive Latin class. "Her work was always of the highest quality, and she impressed me with her cheerful disposition and her capacity for hard work," he says.

Lain also supported his students who were athletes. "I played for the Stanford Women's Rugby Club in 2005 and 2006," says Tucker. "When we won back-to-back national championships, he was one of our biggest fans. He even attended the final four games to cheer us on!"

As often as possible, Lain would attend the games of students he knew who played sports, something he has

continued to do at Salem Academy and College. "I am fascinated by all sports for many reasons, including the fact that they reveal and develop character. In sports, the unexpected happens with surprising frequency, as it does in the rest of life," he says.

He adds, "When my wife was chosen to be the new president of Salem Academy and College, I was prepared to encounter young women who combined the pursuit of academic excellence with a love of one or more sports. The combination is a natural one, and there is much to be learned—and much to be enjoyed—in both of these pursuits."

After Stanford, Tucker completed nursing school at Duke University. She is currently employed in the Cardiothoracic Intensive Care Unit at Duke University Hospital. "Though this was quite a departure from my undergraduate degree, I received support from my former professors. I very distinctly remember Bert Lain discussing plans for me to be a leader in the field of nursing," she says.

# Here's to *Vicki Sheppard* for 22 Years of Devoted Service

**VICKI SHEPPARD C'82 RETIRED** on August 14, 2015, after twenty-two years of service to Salem Academy and College. During her tenure as vice president for institutional advancement, Ms. Sheppard successfully led the largest capital campaign in Salem's history, helping to raise more than \$76 million. That historic campaign provided funding for the restoration of Single Sisters House, for major dorm renovations at Salem Academy, and for enhancements of Salem's athletic facilities.

Other fruits of Ms. Sheppard's fundraising efforts include the establishment of the Sutton Initiative for Design Education (SIDE), the June Porter Johnson Art Gallery, the Sisters Scholarship, the Bob Elbersen Scholarship Fund for Adult Education, the Flentrop Organ Fund, and the Sandresky Lister-Sink Steinway Piano Restoration Project.



PHOTOS BY LAUREN OLINGER



Vicki Sheppard  
(right) with  
Gwynne Stephens  
Taylor C'72

### **“I just opened doors for people and let them become who they are.”**

Ms. Sheppard was initially attracted to Salem by the College’s adult degree program, but there was also something deeper that brought her here.

“I was drawn by Salem’s rich history and traditions, by the enormous achievements of the Moravians in women’s education at a time when no other institution in America was offering it,” said Ms. Sheppard. “I was also attracted by the inclusiveness that was in Salem’s DNA from the beginning and that continues to this day.”

One of Ms. Sheppard’s advisees, who had three small children, became a physician and is now practicing in the Winston-Salem area. “She was accepted by every medical school she applied to,” Ms. Sheppard says with justifiable pride. Another advisee who had been auditing courses decided to get her degree, and in order to do so, she had to retake thirty-six courses for credit. “Not only did she graduate, she went on to earn a master’s degree from Wake Forest—while she was in her 70s!” Ms. Sheppard said.

More than pride, Ms. Sheppard expresses gratitude for the opportunity to serve her beloved alma mater.

“I was privileged to watch others achieve. I just opened doors for people and let them become who they are. It was a gift to me,” she says.

“In the late 1980s, when I finally got up enough courage to walk into Salem’s Main Hall and through the doorway of the Continuing Education office, Vicki was the first person to greet me and to explain what the Continuing Education Department could do for me,” says Mona Wu C’96, now a highly successful entrepreneur. “Thus began my fruitful years at Salem in pursuit of an art history degree and onward to study printmaking. I was already in my forties with two children at home. Vicki was warm, friendly, and calming—just the right person for a nervous housewife who

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**“Vicki brought *wisdom, caring, and thoughtfulness* to every day, enriching not only my life but the lives of hundreds of students.” – Martha Fleer**

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While she was a student, Ms. Sheppard met a number of women whom she describes as “kindred spirits.” Those women went on to become leaders in many fields, including medicine, law, business, and education. “I would not have had that experience had I not been an adult student,” she says.

After earning her bachelor’s degree in English from Salem in 1982, Ms. Sheppard lived in the Tidewater area of Virginia for six years. During that time, she served as president of the area’s Salem alumnae chapter, and she met graduates who are as “completely devoted to Salem” as she is.

In 1988, she returned to Salem as the associate dean for continuing education. In that role, she had the opportunity to work closely with the founder of Salem’s adult degree program, Martha Fleer. Working alongside Fleer, Ms. Sheppard found her true calling.

“I had a mission: to help women achieve on a level they would not have been able to without this special program,” said Ms. Sheppard.

wanted to further her own education. She has remained truthful through the years at Salem. I was fortunate to have met her.”

“One of the joys of my years at Salem was partnering with Vicki to fulfill a common dream of access to a Salem education for persons of all ages,” says Martha Fleer. “Vicki brought wisdom, caring, and thoughtfulness to every day, enriching not only my life but the lives of hundreds of students. Her love of and dedication to Salem College cannot be surpassed. Indeed, Vicki is the personification of all that is special about Salem.”

“Vicki loves Salem with all her soul, and she has done a Herculean job raising money continually during a stressful economy,” says Ann Stone Hanes, a current trustee and an Academy alumna. “We all owe her gratitude for our current fiscal health. Hats off to her, and happy sailing for a much-deserved retirement!”



# Ring Check

The presentation of senior rings is a special tradition that has been enjoyed by generations of Salem Academy students. The rectangular onyx rings help to easily identify a Salem graduate long after she leaves the Academy.

PHOTO BY MEGAN RATLEY



# New President, Renewed Energy and Optimism

Photography by  
Christine Rucker and Wayne Reich

**DR. D. E. LORRAINE STERRITT** was inaugurated as the twentieth president of Salem Academy and College on April 24, 2015. Students, alumnae, faculty, staff, board members, friends, family, and representatives from educational institutions across the country joined together to celebrate Salem's esteemed history and brilliant future.

Dr. Sterritt is the third female president to lead the 244-year-old institution. She succeeds Susan E. Pauly, who retired on June 30, 2014, after eight years of distinguished service.

Born and raised in Ireland, Dr. Sterritt made the United States her home in 1985. She has a rich history of serving some of our country's top educational institutions in administrative and teaching roles at Chatham Hall, Princeton University, the University of Pennsylvania, and Stanford University. Before she arrived at Salem in July 2014, Dr. Sterritt was dean for administration at Harvard College and a member of the faculty of arts and sciences at Harvard University. Dr. Sterritt holds a PhD in French literature from Princeton University.



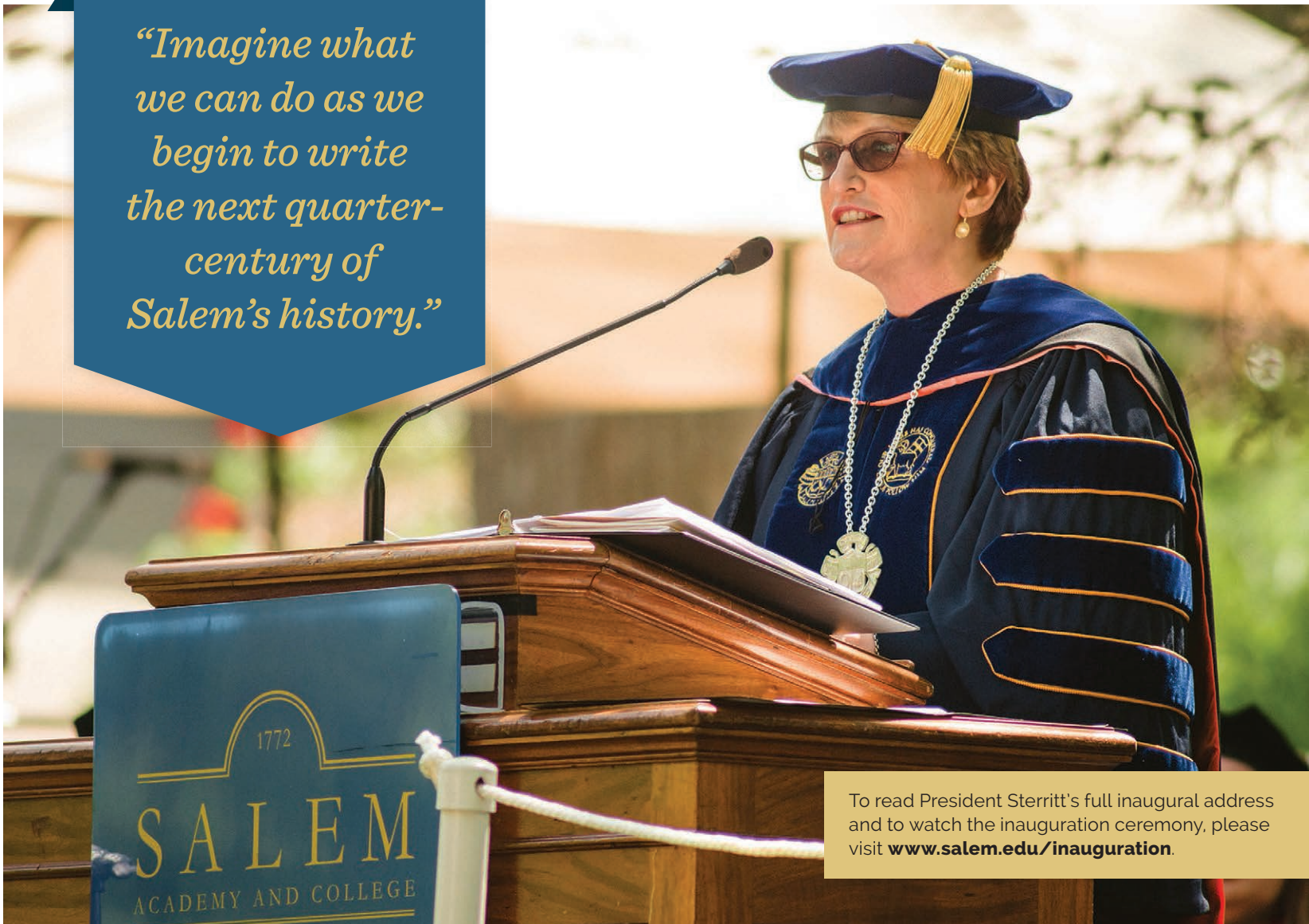
“Imagine what it took for the Moravians to found a school for girls in 1772, a school that grew into the Salem Academy and College of 2015. Those Moravians knew that they were on to a good thing! Today Salem is recognized as:

- the oldest continuously operating educational institution for women in the country;
- an institution that has never closed its doors, through thick and thin;
- an institution that has always and will always prize both academic rigor and service to humanity;
- an institution that has welcomed every qualified student regardless of color, creed, or social standing;
- an institution that saw 12 percent increases in enrollment at both the Academy and the College this

year, which represents record-breaking enrollment in the College and necessitated the building of the McHugh Sisters Flats, so named by a very generous donor;

- an institution that stands strong today because of the work of my nineteen predecessors and the scores of women and men who shared their dedication to the institution;
- an institution that remains firm in its commitment to single-gender education. The seniors this year made a T-shirt that says “Dead before Co-ed.” They gave me one. I assured them that they are preaching to the converted.”

*“Imagine what we can do as we begin to write the next quarter-century of Salem’s history.”*



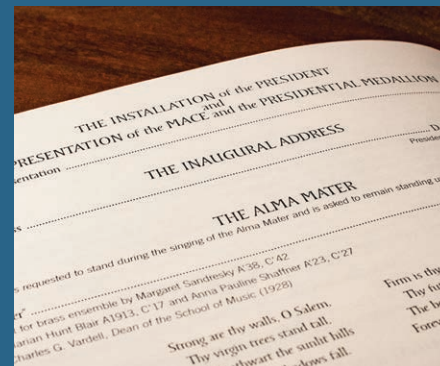
To read President Sterritt's full inaugural address and to watch the inauguration ceremony, please visit [www.salem.edu/inauguration](http://www.salem.edu/inauguration).





## THE SISTERS FONT

In the program for Dr. Sterritt's inauguration, a special typeface called the "Sisters font" was used. Constance F. Gray originally commissioned internationally renowned letter artist John Stevens to create the typeface in honor of Gwynne Stephens Taylor C'72 and for the rededication of the historic Single Sisters House. The Sisters font is unique to Salem Academy and College and it is featured in the signage throughout the Single Sisters House, the oldest building in the United States dedicated to the education of women. In his book, *Scribe: Artist of the Written Word*, Stevens writes that he used "letterforms freely adapted from some of the early letter carving found on Moravian buildings and on Moravian gravestones."



# Celebrating the Class of 2015

**FORTY-TWO MEMBERS** of the Class of 2015 received their diplomas at the May 30 graduation ceremony and are now enrolled at some of the nation's top colleges and universities. They received more than \$3.4 million in merit scholarships.

Visit [www.salemacaemy.com/acceptances](http://www.salemacaemy.com/acceptances) to see the complete list of college acceptances.

Photos by Snyder Photography





*“Once you close your chapter and embark on your new journey, I hope that you are able to make the upmost of your experiences. Continue to mature academically, socially, and personally. Our growth does not end here at Salem, for it has only just begun.”* –Bria Smith A'15, Senior Class President



1772

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