We celebrated Ashby’s 45th birthday with alumni, past and current faculty, and friends this May. On Friday night, folks checked into rooms on the first floor of Mary Foust, and we had a reception to welcome everyone. The evening was relaxed, mostly enjoying each other’s company with food, wine, and games.

The headline for Saturday’s events was Fran and Murray Arndt giving a lecture for participants; though they would deny it, these are classics! Spartan Guides provided a tour of the campus. We recognized all those alumni lost over the years with a memorial in Arndt Parlor. We gathered for the photo in the courtyard, and though there have been a few updates to the building, new flooring and some paint in the classroom, everything is still familiar!

We missed many of you this year and hope to see you at the 50th in 2020. If you are interested in helping us plan the next reunion, let us know, or if you have moved or changed your contact information, please let us know so we can keep in touch and keep you up-to-date with all the exciting events and happenings in the Ashby community.
From the Director...

It has been a full and eventful year at Ashby Residential College. I was quite happy to be in the classroom again last spring and this fall, after not teaching during my first semester here. There is something essential and binding about knowing students as students in addition to getting to know them as people.

Our classes together help us see more dimensions of our personalities, and I find this enriching. Last spring I taught a Rhetoric of Education course, which I find fascinating. Not too surprisingly though, the students have enjoyed my Graphic Novel course much more. We have read some great texts: Watchmen, Maus, Fun Home, Persepolis, and V for Vendetta. I’ll be curious to hear which is their favorite. I confess that I am leaning toward Fun Home. I was lucky enough to see the new musical this fall, and I can see why it won five Tony awards!

Ashby College has a new director of the University Teaching and Learning Commons: Dr. Dave Teachout. He is from Music Education and has been with UNCG for 10 years or so. We have yet to see much about his plans for the unit, but I have been busy chatting him up about Ashby’s great mission and benefits for students. I’ll keep you posted as he settles into his new role. To help illustrate the depth of Ashby’s history, we planned an official reception to honor Ashby’s 45th anniversary. It was great to have Dave, the Chancellor, and so many alumni and current students at the event.

It was good to see those of you who made it to the Reunion in May. We are working now on grouping the alumni into smaller sections that span about 10 years each. Given how much we have grown over the years, this seemed a good way to focus our attention and spread out the workload for the alumni committee. If you are interested in becoming an Alumni rep for the decade that encompasses (any part) of your time in Ashby, as an RCer, Upper Class Mentor, Orientation Leader, or Resident Advisor, please let us know. Some folks are working in pairs. We have the most recent years covered but need folks for the earlier decades. This is where we are with the decades so far:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Alumni Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1970-1979</td>
<td>Your Name Here</td>
<td><a href="mailto:you@gmail.com">you@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980-1989</td>
<td>Your Name Here</td>
<td><a href="mailto:you@gmail.com">you@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990-1999</td>
<td>Your best friend</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bestfriend@gmail.com">bestfriend@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000-2010</td>
<td>Ian Aitken</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ifaitken@uncg.edu">ifaitken@uncg.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-2020</td>
<td>Tasha Battaglino</td>
<td><a href="mailto:battaglinotasha@gmail.com">battaglinotasha@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gillian Polity</td>
<td><a href="mailto:g_polity@uncg.edu">g_polity@uncg.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One of my ongoing projects (slow going, though it may be) is to go through the filing cabinets and papers lurking here in the office. I have countless annual reports from over the years. Last week, for my current supervisor, I read the summary from Fran’s 1993 annual report. It could easily have been this year’s report.

Not much has changed: we have great faculty (we need more), our building needs repair (but we appreciate the repairs completed this year), we could use more resources for students (but thanks for the promise of new computers), and our program is productive and beneficial for students (so says the outside reviewers in 1993). Is it ever thus?

Look for an alumni cookout this summer too. Hope to see you then! – Sara

Foustcast Arrives!

A new tradition is creating sound waves in Mary Foust. Ashby student Coltrane Beck-Chance has worked with students and faculty to create Foustcast: an open forum for students to design and create podcasts. Soon, Coltrane hopes to post Foustcast podcasts on the Ashby Website. Ashby.uncg.edu
Our current RCers keep Ashby’s traditions strong!

Valle Crucis Retreat
We had a full house at the Inn this fall. Fifty-six students and faculty gathered for a beautiful fall weekend.

Pizza and Pumpkins
A very scary Trump-inspired pumpkin won this year’s contest!

Haunted House
Silver Scream Slaughterhouse! See page 6 for more details of our 20th year doing Haunted House.

Foustgiving
For the second year in a row, faculty and administrators both past and present, gathered for in Mary Foust. We had a real buffet line with chafing dishes, and folks together packed in the parlor, just like family.

FousterCon
Scheduled for March 19, students will offer a full range of costumes and panels to investigate all that is comic.

Fouststock
The setlist is here! D.O.G., Mastr Explüdr, Sham Lee & Tony Price, Time Machine Drive-By, and Pictures of Vernon are all lined up to perform on April 9.

Diversity Dinner
On April 16, we will sample food prepared by students, representing global culinary influences.

Ashby Commencement
Wednesday, April 27, 4-6 pm.

45th Anniversary Reception
Current Ashby faculty and staff, students, alumni, and members of UNCG’s administration came together to celebrate Ashby’s 45th Anniversary Reception on February 2nd. We invited the new Chancellor, Frank Gilliam, to experience the commitment and loyalty that Ashby inspires. A warm and nostalgic atmosphere filled the Virginia Dare Room as guests were invited to see the yearbook slideshow, review photos from across the years, and see Murray’s famous 40-page, single-spaced, typed and bound annual report.

A brief, yet poignant, introduction from our director revealed that the traditions and foundations that made Ashby standout at UNCG in 1970 are still thriving today. Ashby continues to reach students on an academic and personal level.

Alumni Valle Crucis
Spring 2017 Valle Crucis is in the planning phase. Jeff Carroll has agreed to organize and plan the next spring event. He will need alumni support, and I know this is an important event to keep alive. Jeff will be in touch with details or you can email him at Jeff.Carroll@allentate.com.
Murray says that he cannot recall anything he read this last year, but as two novels were mine, I will try to recommend them. One is fairly old, and I bought it for my grandchild as it is hard to find.

Elizabeth Goudge wrote *Green Dolphin Street* in 1944. It has a forward by Evelyn Underhill, best known for her book on mythology that is still the best reference book on this subject. To paraphrase her, I will note that the three main characters are Marguerite, who longs for something peaceful and lovely beyond her everyday experiences; her older sister Marianne, who is a restless wanderer, craving a love that she cannot quite recognize; and finally, William, loved by both sisters, who himself loves others easily and fully. The novel, which is not for the younger reader but a classic for all ages, takes place on an island in the English Channel and in New Zealand during the time of sailing ships. Both Murray and I loved it; I for its memorable characters and themes, he for its religious qualities. Though fairly long, it is worth the reading, as it will stay with you for many years.

The second novel Murray read and liked is one I once taught in ARC. Debbie Headington recommended it to me as a wonderful way to teach the meaning of the Vietnam War on its participants and on those of us who often forget it. Bobbie Mason’s *In Country* explores the way a veteran with what we now call post-traumatic stress influences a young girl who learns from beloved relatives just what the war means to those who actually were "in country" and those who experienced it as a personal loss.

Now for my movies: This was not a great year for them, but I will begin with a simple, very funny little film that Murray took me to when I was depressed on what would have been our Emily's 44th birthday. The silly animated previews made me rather dread *Paddington*, but it was a wonderful film, with the little bear from darkest Peru, not a cute Disney character, but a polite and endearing alien stowing away to England. The cast has good performances by name actors, and the film is for all ages. It did cheer me up.

We also liked *Mr. Holmes*, which had a full house when we went to see it. Though not a tale by Conan Doyle, it is true to his character, who is wonderfully portrayed by Ian McCellan. He is far better than as Gandolf or Magneto. See it on Netflix even if you did not take Detective Fiction.

I must mention *He Named Me Malala*, as Betty Carpenter's son, Jason, was responsible for the animated scenes.

For Murray and me the best film of the year was a haunting and painful one, *Phoenix*, about a holocaust survivor and her desperate quest for someone whom she loved and will not believe betrayed her. See it!
As 2016 creeps onward, I pause and realize I’ve been the faculty-in-residence at Ashby College for five years. I pause again and realize that these pauses are the first pauses I’ve taken in those five years! I joined Ashby ready to learn from Fran and Murray, Jeanne, and Chrissy, and now I finally feel like I’m almost, just about, nearly there. It seems we’ve never been busier as our students ripple with creative energy and promising intellect.

My wife, Skye, and I have watched our three daughters grow up as part of the Ashby community. Huxley, thirteen, works on student films and plays a monster each year in Haunted House. Harper, who just turned nine, loves to attend dances and painting parties. And Helen, now three, was born here, and now walks the halls like she owns the place.

To work and live in Ashby is an intense lifestyle, and rewarding. We’re humbled and grateful to be a small part of this great tradition, and look forward to more years to come.

RCC Will Dodson and his daughter Helen

From the desk of Will Dodson:
Something Pithy This Way Comes

As I write this, Sara, Will and I are settling down after our very successful 45th Anniversary Party, where we had the chance to introduce RC’s exceptional program and energetic alumni to Chancellor Gilliam. What I loved most about the gathering was seeing alumni not only from my tenure here, but previous years as well, hearing their stories about how Betty saved their academic careers and got them through to graduation, or how they managed to live in the building without air conditioning or that they loved Fran and Murray’s Grail Literature course so much, even if Fran and Murray bickered over literary analysis (in a purely intellectual way, of course). The defining factor of everyone’s experience was universal—that their time in RC was an integral and transformative part of their education and lives—which to me is really the best testament possible.

The title of this article applies to both the program and to me as well, since I’m so thrilled to report to you all that I am (obviously) still here. I have morphed from Tim’s wife to live-in to lecturer and now into what many of you would consider to be Jeanne’s job, or Betty’s job. As only the third academic advisor in RC’s history I have much to live up to! I joined Ashby around year 30 of the program, and I’m so lucky to be a part of RC’s future as we race towards our Golden Anniversary in 2020.

Just to make everyone feel old, I feel it’s important to tell you that this year Fitzpatrick will graduate from high school and Spencer is in ninth grade at Grimsley. I’ll just leave that shocking news sitting right there with no additional comment.

Think now about joining us in 2020 for what will be a milestone for the program!

From the Desk of Chrissy Flood: Another Anniversary, Still here!

As I write this, Sara, Will and I are settling down after our very successful 45th Anniversary Party, where we had the chance to introduce RC’s exceptional program and energetic alumni to Chancellor Gilliam. What I loved most about the gathering was seeing alumni not only from my tenure here, but previous years as well, hearing their stories about how Betty saved their academic careers and got them through to graduation, or how they managed to live in the building without air conditioning or that they loved Fran and Murray’s Grail Literature course so much, even if Fran and Murray bickered over literary analysis (in a purely intellectual way, of course). The defining factor of everyone’s experience was universal—that their time in RC was an integral and transformative part of their education and lives—which to me is really the best testament possible.

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Remember When?

These were collected From the Reunion and provided by Margie McKelvy:

We heard Murray & Fran’s story – determined to serve God but sidetracked by a shared passion for literature and a predestined love. <3

Volleyball was played during Labor Day weekend

Jean-Marie Catlett and Erin Noel found a kitten and kept it in their room for a week, feeding it canned tuna. The poor, starving kitten’s bowels did not react well to the tuna and their room smelled like kitten poop for ages.

Murray read us Christmas stories and we drank homemade hot chocolate that Donnie made.

Where are they Now?

Jeff Carroll (1985) and his new band, Lemon Sparks, released a new CD in October. It’s available on Amazon and iTunes.

Wendy Broderick Schwaeber (1987) moved to a new house in Cumming, GA.

Chrissy is the New Dr. Flood!

Too humble to include this in her update, Chrissy finished her dissertation, The Arbiters of Compromise: Sectionalism, Unionism and Secessionism in Maryland and North Carolina, and earned her Ph.D. in history this December.

Over Twenty Years Strong: Haunted House at Mary Foust

As many of you know, each year students choose a theme and develop a professional-grade haunted house. Students write the script, design and create costumes, makeup, props, and sets. This year’s theme was “Silver Screen Slaughterhouse,” a terrifying movie palace full of monsters and ghouls. Over 300 attended and we raised $1,000 dollars for the Arc of Greensboro, a nonprofit organization of and for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. If you’re curious about ARC, and its mission to raise awareness for equal opportunities, please feel free to explore their website: www.arcg.org.

Students also collected canned goods, which were donated to Spartan Open Pantry, an on-campus organization working to end hunger for UNCG students. Themes for Fall 2016 are still pending and ideas are welcomed!

Send us your updates!

Your former classmates and faculty want to hear about you. Send news of your happenings to ashby@uncg.edu for inclusion in the Newsletter. We will be publishing the newsletter once year in the spring semester.
As you have undoubtedly noticed, the newsletter has changed. Margie McKelvy, our revered editor of the following for many years, has passed the reigns on to Ashby. The students and I have been working on the next phase of the newsletter. Thanks to Margie for all her hard work these many years!

We have been collecting contact information from alums from multiple directions but we know our database is incomplete. If you know someone who is not receiving our emails, please let them know to get in touch with Sara Littlejohn. The office phone is the same: 336-334-5915 and the email address is sjlittle@uncg.edu or ashby@uncg.edu. Thanks!

The Following is the annual newsletter for UNCG’s Warren Ashby Residential College.