

**R-MWC Office of the President  
Letter from Jolley Bruce Christman  
President of the Board of Trustees**

Sept. 11, 2006

Dear Alumnae, Parents, and Friends,

Our College is a college with rigorous academic standards, an emphasis on liberal arts, a committed faculty, and a strong respectful community that takes its moral course from our Honor System. Its commitments are to women's learning and advancement, and to education in the singular.

On Saturday, September 9, 2006, after two and a half years of research and deliberation, the Board of Trustees voted to approve the strategic directions proposed by the Strategic Planning Steering Committee. In doing so, the trustees have claimed a future for the College that invites young men to become part of our community and join with us as we advocate the life more abundant for peoples around the world.

As our faculty defines and implements the global honors experience, it will build on the College's acknowledged academic rigor. As Dean William Coulter has said, "The Global Honors experience is designed to energize students individually from the very beginning of their time at the college.... Throughout their college career, they will continue to take responsibility for their own learning, and no matter what their major or minor they will ask 'how does this matter in the global context?' "

At this meeting, the Board also voted to extend the College's program at the University of Reading, England to the academic year 2007-08.

To implement the new Strategic Plan, the President of the College and the President of the Board of Trustees will appoint six working groups, each with a specific charge related to one of six goals detailed in the Strategic Plan. Group members will include trustees, faculty, staff, alumnae, and students working side-by-side as we have done in the past, and will continue to do in the future for the College we all love.

This announcement resonates with loss and hope, tears and anticipation. Pearl Buck, perhaps our most well-known alumna, reflected, "In a mood of faith and hope my work goes on. A ream of fresh paper lies on my desk waiting for the next book."

We have begun to write the next chapter in our history.

Jolley Bruce Christman '69  
President, Board of Trustees