

MARY WASHINGTON COLLEGE

TODAY

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*Students combine learning and adventure
in special courses and programs.*

(see p. 1 and pp. 12-14)

Building on Memories

BY DONNA HARTER RAAB

Gift Helps AEC and Enables Alumna to Memorialize her Parents

"I always thought Mary Washington College was fully supported by the state," says Carmen Culpeper Chappell '59. "I have to tell you I was shocked when I learned the Commonwealth of Virginia provides only a small percentage of the College's operating expenses, and absolutely nothing for the proposed Alumni Executive Center at Trench Hill."

That discovery less than a year ago prompted Mrs. Chappell to make a significant gift toward the new Alumni Executive Center campaign. "Mary Washington College was an important part of my life, and it is part of who I am today," she says. "My father attended the University of Indiana, my mother graduated from the University of Puerto Rico, and they both wanted me to come to the United States to pursue a strong liberal arts education. They liked the strict rules for girls at MWC, and when we first came to the campus, all three of us were completely awed by the beautiful surroundings. It literally became my home away from home."

Mrs. Chappell attended MWC from 1955 until 1959, when she received her B.A. in English. "I always wanted to be an architect, but I was terrible at physics. I didn't want to be responsible for any buildings falling down, so I followed my second passion — a genuine love of reading, especially books by English and American writers."

At the beginning of her senior year at MWC, she went on a blind date with a Harvard graduate and Marine lieutenant from Officer's Training School at Quantico. Less than three years later, that officer, John F. Chappell, became her husband. Shortly after their marriage in 1961, Mr. Chappell resigned his commission in the Marines to be with his wife and family, and soon became involved in pharmaceutical management. Over the years, the Chappells traveled extensively and lived in North Carolina, Connecticut, Germany, Belgium, England and Pennsylvania. They have two children, Eric and Jennifer, two grandchildren — and another on the way.

"Life has been good to us," says Mrs. Chappell. "I have enjoyed my children, and now my grandchildren. Our travel experiences and our years abroad have helped me remain a student. I love learning about other cultures and discovering their history." This love of learning prompted her to go back to school, and in 1985 she graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with an M.S. in anthropology and Maya archaeology.

The Chappells visit MWC whenever possible. "During the first years of our marriage, we were out of the country a great deal, so I missed some of my early reunions," says Mrs. Chappell. "However, I did make our 25th reunion in 1984, and I have visited often since then. In fact, I



Carmen and John Chappell recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary.

just toured the campus in April this year, and I have to tell you I am amazed at all the new buildings. A lot has changed, but a lot still remains the same. That is one reason I am extremely happy to be able to help with the campaign for the new Alumni Executive Center."

The sizable gift the Chappells made to the campaign enables them to dedicate the Formal Living Room in the new Center. "I am going to ask that the Formal Living Room be dedicated 'In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Culpeper by John and Carmen Culpeper Chappell.' My parents were so happy to have me attend Mary Washington College. They were always involved in whatever I was doing, and what courses I was taking. They came from Puerto Rico to visit me on campus three separate times and then came for my graduation. I am proud to be able to support the Alumni Executive Center campaign while also paying special tribute to my parents."

In the meantime, Mrs. Chappell is enjoying her passion for architecture. "My husband and I just finished building a new home outside of Philadelphia, so I have had the opportunity to look over plenty of blueprints in the last few years. I have also seen the architectural drawings and plans for the Alumni Executive Center at Trench Hill, and it is absolutely fabulous. I think it will be fascinating to see the plans and blueprints become a reality." That should be in June of 2004, just in time for her 45th class reunion.

Donna Harter Raab is publications coordinator in the office of college advancement at MWC.



Mr. and Mrs. Samuel B. Culpeper at their daughter's home in 1980.

Taking Stock

John F. Chappell, former chairman at Smith Kline Beecham Pharmaceuticals and current owner of Plexus Ventures, explains how the couple made the decision to support the campaign for the new Alumni Executive Center. "I have fond memories of Mary Washington College since I met my future wife there. Needless to say, the place made quite an impression on me. Over the years, Carmen and I occasionally made gifts to support the MWC Annual Fund, but we were under the assumption that the College was fully funded by the state. When Carmen discovered the small percentage the state actually gives MWC, she immediately wanted to help."

Members of the Alumni Executive Center campaign committee met with the Chappells to explain plans for the new Center as well as various giving options and naming opportunities. "The alumni on the committee are certainly enthusiastic," says Mr. Chappell, "and the new Alumni Executive Center is a compelling idea. It was actually an easy decision to join the early backers."

After several discussions with Jeffrey W. Rountree '91, vice president for college development at Mary Washington College, the Chappells decided to make a significant pledge to the campaign. "We discovered we could take up to five years to complete payment of the pledge, and that MWC is able to receive donations of stock," says Mr. Chappell. "For tax purposes, we chose to make our first payment with 1,000 shares of appreciated stock. This allows us to take a charitable tax deduction for the full amount of the stock's fair market value at the time of donation, and we do not have to pay capital gains tax on the appreciated value. As a result, the College is able to utilize the full market value of the stock donation, and both of us get more mileage from the gift."

If you would like information on how you can help support the Alumni Executive Center, or how to donate stock to the College, contact Jeff Rountree '91 or Ross Ramsey '93 at the MWC Office of College Development. Call (540) 654-1024, (888) MWC-0004 or send e-mail to jrountre@mwc.edu.



Illustration by Richard Chenoweth, A.I.A.

Alumni Executive Center Campaign Update

As of September 1, 2001, more than \$3.7 million had been raised toward the campaign goal of \$5.6 million. Groundbreaking for the new Alumni Executive Center at Trench Hill is scheduled for early 2003.



BY DONNA HARTER RAAB

Researchers at Mary Washington College recently embarked upon a search for a historical "key to the College." Alas, one was not to be found. Along the way, numerous keys of various sizes and shapes with myriad purposes were discovered, but not "the key."

Needless to say, these researchers were disappointed and felt they had failed in their task. As they were preparing to call off the search, one enlightened individual jumped up and announced that she had at long last discovered "the key."

Everyone expectantly gathered 'round to see this elusive key.

When the researcher opened her hand to show off her find, everyone gasped. The hand was empty. The woman then began pointing her finger at everyone in the circle.

"There is no one key to the College," she said. "Each one of us here and within this community holds the key to the future of Mary Washington College."

You hold the key to the future of MWC in your hand. For information on how you can support the College Annual Fund, please contact Dorothy Ogburn Wood '92 in the Office of Annual Giving at (888) MWC-0004.