

Women Executives in Virginia Higher Education
Annual Session
November 30 – December 1, 2006

Women: Making the Difference – Taking the Lead

Thursday, November 30, 2006

6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Buffet dinner hosted by President Elisabeth S. Muhlenfeld at her home: Networking and conversation

Friday, December 1, 2006

8:30 - 9:00 a.m. Continental breakfast at Conference Center. Networking.

9:00 - 9:30 a.m. Welcome: President Elisabeth S. Muhlenfeld
Topic: Women's Colleges: Creating Leadership

9:30 - 10:45 a.m. Panel Presentation: Making a Difference in the Community
Moderator: President Muhlenfeld
Panel: Viola Baskerville, Secretary of the Administration
Jennifer Braaten, President, Ferrum University
Rachel Flynn, Board Member, Sweet Briar College
Penelope Kyle, President, Radford University

10:45 – 11:00 a.m. Break

11:00 - Noon Small discussion breakouts with Panel Presenters

Noon - 1:00 p.m. Network Luncheon Buffet

1:00 - 2:00 p.m. Closing Keynote: Joanne K. Glasser, President
Eastern Kentucky University

**WOMEN EXECUTIVES IN VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION
ANNUAL SESSION
NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 1, 2006**

**WOMEN: MAKING THE DIFFERENCE – TAKING THE LEAD
SPEAKER PROFILES**

Host and Moderator

Elisabeth Showalter Muhlenfeld, President, Sweet Briar College

Sweet Briar College welcomed Dr. Elisabeth Showalter Muhlenfeld as its ninth president in August 1996. Dr. Muhlenfeld holds a bachelor's degree in Philosophy from Goucher College, a master's degree in English from the University of Texas at Arlington, and a Ph.D. in English from the University of South Carolina. Before coming to Sweet Briar, Dr. Muhlenfeld was Dean of Undergraduate Studies at Florida State University in Tallahassee. She is the author of four books, including *Mary Boykin Chesnut: A Biography*, which was nominated for various prizes, among them the Pulitzer, and is a specialist in Southern writers. Dr. Muhlenfeld is a prolific writer and a frequent presenter at state, regional, national, and international conferences and workshops, many of which have dealt with the works of Southern writers or issues affecting undergraduate education. She is an active participant in numerous literary and language-based organizations, as well as an advocate of women's colleges. She has been active in the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) serving on the SACS Commission on Colleges and as Vice Chair.

Closing Keynote Presenter

Joanne K. Glasser, President, Eastern Kentucky University

Joanne K. Glasser was appointed as the first female president of Eastern Kentucky University in 2001 and has become a recognized leader in higher education across Kentucky, the South and the nation. President Glasser is a noted advocate for student accessibility to education as she seeks opportunities that will enable students to earn a quality college degree, while provided in a flexible, convenient, and affordable manner. President Glasser, as an advocate for academic freedom and diversity, holds the philosophy that an institution of higher learning is a marketplace of ideas. She serves as the Commonwealth's higher education representative to the Southern Regional Education Board as well as Kentucky's representative to the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU). President Glasser also is Past Chair of the Ohio Valley Conference Board of Presidents (2004-05). She holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from George Washington University; a Juris Doctorate Degree from The University of Maryland School of Law; and a Certificate from the Harvard University Graduate School of Education's Institute of Higher Education Management.

PANELISTS

The Hon. Viola O. Baskerville, Secretary of Administration

Viola Baskerville's appointment to serve as Secretary of Administration was announced by Governor Timothy Kaine in December 2005. Born and raised in East Richmond, Baskerville served as a member of the House of Delegates, representing the 71st District, for eight years. During her tenure in the House of Delegates, Baskerville served on the committees for Health, Welfare, and Institutions; Science and Technology, Militia and Police; and Commerce and Labor. She served as the Secretary of the Virginia Legislative Black Caucus for six years, and was a member of the Joint Subcommittee Studying Lead Poisoning and the Committee Studying Access and Diversity in Higher Education. Prior to her election as Delegate in 1998, Baskerville served on the Richmond City Council for nearly four years, including a two-year appointment as Vice Mayor. Baskerville received her Bachelor's Degree from the College of William and Mary in 1973 and, after graduation, was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to study in Bonn, Germany. Baskerville earned a law degree from the University of Iowa in 1979.

Jennifer L. Braaten, President, Ferrum College

Dr. Jennifer Braaten became Ferrum College's tenth president and first female chief executive in 2002. She had previously served as president of Midland Lutheran College in Fremont, Nebraska, where she was the first woman president when she took office in August 1999 among the 28 Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) colleges and universities nationwide. During her tenure at Midland, Braaten initiated a number of programs, including the college's largest capital campaign, a comprehensive marketing plan, strategic planning and improvements to the physical plant, including more student housing options and advanced technological capabilities. She emphasized campus diversity, as well as collaboration with other institutions, and a strong connection to the Lutheran church. From 1991-1999, Braaten served as the provost and vice president for academic affairs for Lynn University in Boca Raton, Florida, as the school transitioned from college to university status with six colleges. During this time, the university added a number of graduate degrees and a doctoral program, introduced on-line programs, and conducted a \$26 million dollar capital campaign. Braaten also served the College of Boca Raton/Lynn University as its academic dean (1989-1991) and as a sociology and history professor (1980-1988). Braaten began her college teaching career at Florida Atlantic University and simultaneously taught at Palm Beach Community College. Braaten received her Ed.D. and M.Ed. from Florida Atlantic University, and her B.S. from University of Minnesota. She has also attended St. Olaf College, Minnesota; University of Vienna, Austria; and University of Oregon, Oregon.

Penelope W. Kyle, President, Radford University

Penny Kyle became Radford University's sixth president when she took office June 1, 2005. The Galax, Virginia native joined Radford with more than 30 years of experience in Virginia in state government, the corporate and legal arenas and higher education. She served as Director of the Virginia Lottery for over a decade. Prior to joining the lottery, Kyle worked at CSX Corporation for 13 years, beginning as an attorney and rising to become the first female officer of the international transportation company and vice president in the finance department. She had previous experience as an attorney with McGuire Woods LLP in Richmond and as an assistant professor of English at Thomas Nelson Community College in Hampton. Kyle has served in leadership positions on numerous civic, cultural, professional, financial and volunteer organizations including service on the Board of Visitors and Foundation Board at James Madison University for 10 years and the Virginia Commonwealth University Foundation board for six years. A graduate of Guilford College, she earned a Juris Doctorate from the University of Virginia and an MBA from the College of William and Mary.

Rachel O'Dwyer Flynn, AIA; Sweet Briar College, Director, Board of Directors

Rachel Flynn joined the City of Richmond in March 2006 as Director of Community Development. She is a licensed architect and has practiced both architecture and urban planning for over twenty years. Prior to her arrival in Richmond, she was Director of Community Development in Lynchburg, Virginia for eight years. She received numerous recognitions including Best Civic Leader, Central Virginia Visionary, Most Influential Leader, Preservationist of the Year, and Outstanding Urban Conservationist. She led the effort to develop award winning Master Plans for Lynchburg, receiving awards such as Best Comprehensive Plan, Excellence in Planning for the Downtown & Riverfront Master Plan, Outstanding Plan Award for the Downtown & Riverfront Master Plan, and the Great American Main Street Award. She spent the large part of her architectural career with the firm Cannon Design (New York, Boston, Washington, D.C. and Toronto, Ontario). In addition, she worked with the Mayors' Institute on City Design at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design where she developed a national housing conference on HUD's HOPE VI housing redevelopment program. Rachel is a graduate of Harvard University where she received her Masters in Public Administration, and a graduate of the Catholic University of America, where she received her Master of Science in Engineering/Construction Management and her Bachelor of Science in Architecture.