Greetings from the Alumnae of Randolph-Macon Woman’s College
and the Alumni of Randolph College

on the occasion of
The Inauguration of President Bradley W. Bateman
Saturday, April 26, 2014

Karen Patterson ’73
President, Randolph Woman’s College Alumnae and Randolph College Alumni Association

As president of the Randolph Macon Woman’s College Alumnae and Randolph College Alumni Association, it is a privilege for me, this weekend, to represent the graduates of this College, many of whom are here today because this school and its future are important to us.

From all of us: A very warm welcome to you, Dr. Bateman. We take great pleasure in hailing you as the 10th president of the College.

As we have gotten to know Dr. Bateman over the last year, it is clear that he is exceptionally talented at presidential leadership, and at pedagogy, and incredibly committed to the value of a liberal education, and to Randolph’s students and their futures. He is also calm in the midst of a maelstrom, and has a quick and wicked wit.

And more than most people, that at least I know, he is so obviously committed to empowering underrepresented and underserved people, and to ensuring that Randolph College graduates not only are prepared to succeed, but that they understand that success is not always defined by job titles or salaries, but by living a life more abundant, and by helping others achieve their own lives more abundant.

I believe that our founder, William Waugh Smith, was also committed to empowering underserved and underrepresented people. He started Randolph-Macon Woman’s College at a time when women could not vote and most people believed women either could not, or should not, be educated.

Pearl Buck, who graduated from here 100 years ago next month, once wrote about the College: “We were very proud of our College. We ...exulted...that we were being taught what men were taught....We came out ready to use our heads, and accustomed to work. I have always been glad of that.”

President Smith gave this College a valuable legacy. As an alumna, I too, am very proud of our College and I am very glad that Dr. Bateman is committed to continuing President Smith’s legacy. Because of his example and leadership, women and men will leave Randolph College ready to use their heads, knowing all people should have the opportunity to succeed, and understanding that they have to work to make it is so.
For all these reasons and more we are thrilled to call Dr. Bateman our President, and look forward to helping Randolph College thrive under his leadership.

So Brad, welcome; thanks for coming.