Invocation

on the occasion of

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

Virginia Hill Worden ’69
Trustee Emerita and former Interim President

As we invoke God’s presence with us, I will open and close with words spoken by our fifth president, William F. Quillian, Jr. at my own commencement.

Let us pray:

For glimpses of beauty, for hours of truth, for tastes of justice and the feel of freedom, for music and mirth, for love and laughter, Lord, we love Thy world, this nation, and this College.

We ask blessings on all those gathered here: representatives of the great academic institutions of our land, Randolph College Trustees, our graduates, our dedicated administrators and staff, and our reason for being, our students.

We most particularly seek your blessings on Bradley W. Bateman as he joins the Randolph College community to lead it to the opportunities and by obstacles that lie ahead. May fresh challenges excite his heart and mind and kindle in him the creativity to journey with us beyond any old limits, holding nothing back. May he and Cyndi feel at home here and find a rhythm where what is new draws enrichment from all that has come before.

We are grateful for this great College, built from the inspiration and persistence of many and sustained for more than a century by those who aspirations and prayers are now one with the brick and stone of this beloved place.

Bless us all that we may support the vital work of this College: to educate students who never sharpen their minds by narrowing them, but rather become seekers of truth, probing realms we have yet to know. Take them, we beseech thee, on an expedition of courage and moral stamina to some high place where they can see beyond themselves to the common good. May they thrive. May the future come to them with gifts worth having: whole hearts, clear and learned minds, good friends, and deep, deep gratitude.

And in the words of Dr. Quillian, may we leave in the world a little more truth, a little more justice, a little more beauty than would have been there had we not love the world enough to quarrel with it for what it is not but could be. O God, take our minds and think through them; take our lips and speak through them; take our hearts and set them on fire.

Amen.