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### **Community Leader Mary Martin Bowen Receives 2009 Alumnae Achievement Award from Randolph College**

**Lynchburg, VA, October 12, 2009** – Randolph College awarded Mary Martin Davis Bowen, of Decatur, Georgia its highest alumnae honor in September. Bowen, a 1957 graduate of Randolph-Macon Woman’s College (now Randolph College), earned the 2009 Alumnae Achievement Award in recognition for her community leadership in education, local and national politics, and with nature conservation and preservation in her home state of Georgia.

A former high school and college English teacher and a newspaper feature writer, Bowen earned a masters degree in American literature from Duke University in 1959.

Her motto is “embrace the opportunity to do something that needs to be done!” When the Democratic Party needed a Georgia woman to go to the 1968 Convention to serve on the Platform Committee, Bowen had the credentials and was not intimidated by politicians.

When the Governor of Georgia needed a woman to serve on the ethics commission, she went to work—not just for one term, but for two and a half terms—and found satisfaction investigating citizen-brought complaints about politicians and their financial dealings. For several decades Bowen has been a precinct election worker and has earned the unofficial title of “election computer expert.”

In the mid-1990s, she served on the board that helped reconstitute the Duke University School of Nursing undergraduate program. She has also held several positions on the College’s Alumnae Association Board of Directors and has supported her alma mater with thousands of volunteer hours in fundraising and admissions.

Bowen’s conservation work in Georgia has a sense of legacy, assuring continued physical growth. She helped establish the Big Trees Forest Preserve, reclaiming farm land, restoring the native plants and creating a system of nature trails. Her work on the board of the Natural Science Center for Youth Foundation brought programs to

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encourage young people to study natural science outdoors. Through the Southeast Land Preservation Trust, she worked with landowners to establish conservation easements for wildlife and plants.

The Alumnae Achievement Award program began in 1981, and is designed to recognize remarkable alumnae who personify the value of a liberal arts education and who have brought distinction to themselves and the College. Award winners are nominated by their fellow alumnae and are selected by a committee of administration, faculty, trustee, and alumnae members. Each recipient receives an elegant Tiffany and Company crystal trapezoid on an ebony base engraved with the College seal.

Randolph College is a nationally-recognized, private, liberal arts and sciences institution known for its excellent academic program, diverse close-knit community, and global perspective. Located in Lynchburg, Virginia, the College was founded in 1891 as Randolph-Macon Woman's College.

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