COMMUNITY News

GALA XVI is a ‘star-studded’ success

Thirteen women who are national and international stars in their fields were honored as Women of Distinction in May during Birmingham-Southern’s biennial GALA celebration.

GALA XVI raised nearly $100,000 to support scholarships in the college’s Division of Fine and Performing Arts.

In addition to attending a Patrons Party on Thursday evening, May 1, the women of achievement visited the Birmingham-Southern campus on Friday, May 2, to participate in student round-table discussion groups, attend a Fine Arts Showcase highlighting the talents of BSC students, and be honored at the concluding GALA XVI Awards Presentation Luncheon.

Best-selling author Barbara Taylor Bradford and publisher, writer, and entrepreneur Nancy Evans were co-chairs for GALA XVI. Both are past GALA honorees.

The GALA XVI honorees were:

- Colleen Barrett—President and COO, Southwest Airlines Co.
- Lidia Bastianich—Italian Cooking TV Series Host, Author, and Restaurant Entrepreneur
- Arlene Dahl—Film and Broadway Star, Author, and Fashion Entrepreneur
- Marsha Johnson Evans—President and CEO, American Red Cross
- Jane Friedman—President and CEO, HarperCollins Publishers
- Phyllis George—Former Miss America, Emmy-Winning TV Sportscaster, and Author
- Kathie Lee Gifford—Television and Film Star, Recording Artist, and Best-Selling Author
- Agnes Gund—President Emeritus, The Museum of Modern Art in New York City
- Betty Rollin—Emmy-Winning TV News Correspondent and Best-Selling Author
- Muriel Siebert—President, NYSE Brokerage Firm Muriel Siebert & Co. Inc.
- Pat Summitt—Head Women’s Basketball Coach, The University of Tennessee
- Fredricka Whitfield—CNN Network News Anchor and Correspondent

Photos by R. D. Moore

Pat Summitt addresses an overflow crowd at the Awards Presentation Luncheon after receiving her GALA XVI obelisk.

GALA XVI is a ‘star-studded’ success

Phyllis George makes a point while discussing her new book with faculty and students.

Kathie Lee Gifford (left) and Arlene Dahl were literally “on stage” in the college’s Theatre One while talking with theatre arts students about the craft of acting.

Fredricka Whitfield (center) enjoys student artwork that was on display during GALA XVI, while accompanied by BSC students Anna Donaldson (left) and Toni Newborn.