

Frances Plimpton Pugh



On Dec. 10, family, friends, Ravenscroft board members, and former trustees gathered at the Umstead Hotel & Spa in Cary to honor Mrs. Frances P. Pugh for her extraordinary contributions to our School. The 2009-10 school year marks Mrs. Pugh's 40th consecutive year of service on the Ravenscroft Board of Trustees.

As a neighbor, friend, parent, grandparent, trustee, and role model for those in our community, Mrs. Pugh truly exemplifies what it means to be committed.

Mrs. Pugh was first elected as a trustee in 1969, and in 1972 she was elected to the Executive Committee of the board. In her 40 years on the board, she has served on the Development Committee, which she has chaired and co-chaired for many years, the Finance Committee and the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

Through the years, Mrs. Pugh and her family have hosted innumerable barbecues and picnics, field trips, and cross-country practices and meets at Tara Farm which is adjacent to the School. She is described by those who know her as an outstanding lady who has vision, leadership and an enormous amount of passion. Mrs. Pugh's warmth and thoughtfulness for others and her unrelenting dedication to her passions are what set her apart.

"A new and important chapter in the history of Ravenscroft began when Fran Pugh became a trustee," said

former board chair Lacy Presnell. "Throughout Fran's service, there have been no naysayers or doubters. No one has ever doubted the impact she has had, and her commitment and generosity have played a monumental and pivotal role in the history of Ravenscroft."

In May 2009, Mrs. Pugh was inducted into the Class of 1862, making her an honorary alumna of the School. In 2002, Ravenscroft also established the Frances P. Pugh Loyalty Award to honor Mrs. Pugh and her family, whose guidance has allowed the Ravenscroft School community to continue to "dream and grow."

Mrs. Pugh, and her husband, Dr. V. Watson Pugh '38, have a connection to the School that spans several generations. Four of their children are graduates of Ravenscroft (Vernon '76, Holly '78, Fred '80 and Walter '86), and six grandchildren are graduates or are currently attending the School (Kristina '03, Katerina '04, Carl '10, Chase '14, Anna '17, and Erin '19).



Mrs. Pugh and five of her grandchildren

As Head of School Doreen Kelly noted at the event honoring Mrs. Pugh: "Fran's years of service bring to mind a quote from Helen Keller: 'I long to accomplish great and noble tasks, but it is my chief duty to accomplish humble tasks as though they were great and noble. The world is moved along, not only by the mighty shoves of its heroes, but also by the aggregate of the tiny pushes of each honest worker.'"

"Fran, sometimes you have shoved us forward, frequently you have nudged us along, but always you have pressed us toward great and noble work." 