

October 14, 2009

Dear Alumnae and Friends,

We are pleased to announce that Chatham Hall has received an extraordinary gift of \$31million from the estate of Bettie Beckwith Nilsen '31 to establish the "Elizabeth Beckwith Nilsen and Robert A. Nilsen Endowed Fund." Mrs. Nilsen placed no restrictions on the fund, giving Chatham Hall the freedom to use income generated annually by this endowment for its highest priorities.

As you may know, endowment funds are assets that provide support to the School in perpetuity. Funds in an endowment are invested, and a portion of the investment return helps each year to finance the School's operations. Chatham Hall's operations are also funded by tuition and fees, plus the School's growing and increasingly important Annual Fund. A strong endowment means a secure future. It steadies an institution's revenue stream, buffers a school in times of economic challenge, and provides critical support for a school's most important needs.

Chatham Hall's Endowment Fund was started in 1982 with contributions from generous donors. Thanks to the School's current Capital Campaign, the endowment has grown from \$12.9 million in 2003, when the Campaign began, to \$20 million in 2009. Mrs. Nilsen's gift will increase the Endowment Fund to \$51 million.

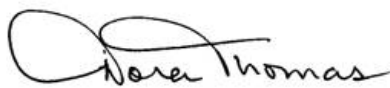
We remain deeply grateful for the continued support of our alumnae and friends who make it possible for Chatham Hall to be the dynamic and unique school that it is today. Thanks to your help, Chatham Hall is able to fulfill its mission of producing future women leaders. We believe girls learn best together, that character is built upon a strong honor code and through service to others, and that learning best takes place in small classes where girls are free to take risks. Ours are expensive ideals in today's world, and well worth preserving.

Thank you for your support of Chatham Hall, a wonderful school now with an even-more-wonderful future.

Sincerely,



Gary J. Fountain
Rector



Dora M. Thomas P'02,'04
President, Board of Trustees