To: The Wellesley College Community
From: H. Kim Bottomly
Subject: In Memoriam: Molly Campbell ’60
Date: January 29, 2014

I am saddened to inform you that Molly Sanderson Campbell ’60, former Dean of Students from 1984 to 1998 and a former faculty member in the Mathematics Department, passed away on January 28, her 75th birthday.

A beloved Dean, Molly championed multiculturalism at Wellesley, helping the College establish our nationally-recognized multifaith model and guiding Wellesley to become a more global institution. She once said, “There should be no Wendy Wellesley. We are all Wellesley women, and the variety of Wellesley women is infinite. We want to be aware and supportive of everyone in the community.”

She was also committed to “leveling the playing field” for incoming Wellesley students. Upon her retirement in 1998 she said, “I hope that every young woman we accept, we also provide [her] with the opportunity to really realize her potential.”

Molly was the first Dean of Students to live on campus, wanting to be more easily accessible and available to students. During her 20 years as a senior administrator at Wellesley, she sat on many campus committees, including serving as co-chair for the committee that initiated the dual degree program between Wellesley and MIT.

As a student at Wellesley, Molly was a math major and a member of Phi Beta Kappa. Outside of the classroom, her memorable achievements included convincing the administration to extend the Saturday night curfew for seniors to 2 a.m. She returned to Wellesley in 1978 as Class Dean for the Class of 1980 and as a faculty member in the math department, where she taught until 1985. In her career at Wellesley, she also served as Class Dean for the Class of 1984, Assistant to the President under former Wellesley President Nan Keohane ’61, and Director of the Affirmative Action Program. In 1984, she became Dean of Students, a position she held until her retirement in 1998.

When Molly retired from Wellesley, she did not go without appropriate fanfare. May 6, 1998, was named Molly Campbell Day—a day when the entire College community honored the former dean for her years of service to Wellesley.
A dedicated volunteer for Wellesley, Molly received the Alumnae Association’s Syrena Stackpole Award in 2010, on the occasion of her 50th Reunion, to recognize her longstanding commitment to Wellesley, including as an Annual Giving representative, Reunion committee member, board member of the Stone Center, and a lifetime member and former steering committee member of the Friends of the Library. Outside of Wellesley, she served as a board member of the Charles River School and the Friends of Hopi Foundation, and she was active with the Eliot Church of South Natick.

Molly’s approach to retirement can be described best in her own words from the Class of 1960’s 50th Reunion Record Book, “At this point in my life, while I enjoy traveling and new adventures, I most value friends, family, and trying to do a bit of good in this world.”

Wellesley College is a stronger institution because of Molly’s insightful, lifelong commitment and leadership. I extend my condolences to her family and many friends and colleagues.

Molly’s family has indicated that they will announce a memorial service at a later date.