

Averett Tradition: Daisy Chain

One college tradition no longer practiced was the Daisy Chain, whereby on the Saturday before graduation all Big Sisters (seniors) were honored by their Little Sisters (juniors). A hand-woven rope of flowers was transferred from one class to the other with much fanfare.

Early in the morning long before sunrise, the junior class girls would be awakened to board buses and head for the country where they picked daisies from tick-infested fields at a nearby farm. Stained fingers and aching backs were frequent complaints of the day. Stacks of daisies were brought back to the gymnasium and long ropes of flowers were literally woven by the juniors, an arduous task at best. One bright aspect of the day was that the juniors returned to find breakfast prepared for them by the seniors, who also had made their beds and tidied their rooms while they were away.

Class Day ceremonies were always held at 4:00 p.m. All senior girls wore black graduation robes and the junior girls wore white dresses. The seniors were seated in the front of the auditorium in their caps and gowns with the juniors sitting immediately behind them. During Class Day the class history, prophecy, and last will and testament were read. Both classes entered and exited the auditorium to appropriate processional and recessional marches.

After the Class Day program all students and visitors went outside to the amphitheater (the back campus). The senior class president would lead her class out onto the grass where they formed the school initials, "A" and "C." The juniors then wound through that formation with the chain of daisies, supporting it by white silk pillows that each girl carried on her shoulder. The chain was then transferred to the shoulders of the seniors.

The juniors then further honored the graduating class by forming into the numbers of the class year (ex: 1960) and sang the "Daisy Chain Song," a song that was written in 1926 and which was sung at all following Class Day exercises.

Daisy Chain Song

Fashioned by wee fairy fingers, flowers with heart of gold,
Whisper in my ear the secret which the south wind told.
Has the ever-guarding pine tree, towering to the sky,
Told whence come, Oh, Chain of Daisies, strength that never dies?

Love unbounding, love unceasing, this the south wind told,
Made by petals white as snow-drops, made my heart of gold.
Friendship's bond that love hath given, keep it ever true,
Sisters of our Alma Mater, we pledge our love to you.