

Pembroke Center Associates

Newsletter

Partnership with Nanjing University Deepens

In June, seven Brown faculty members and a postdoctoral fellow from the Cogut Center for the Humanities traveled to Nanjing University to take part in an academic conference and celebrate the inauguration of the Center for Gender Studies and the Humanities at Nanjing University. The new center is a direct outgrowth of the Nanjing-Brown Joint Program in Gender Studies and the Humanities, in which the Pembroke Center plays a lead role.

This partnership was officially launched in June 2008, and is a unique collaboration between Nanjing University's Institute for Advanced Studies in Social Sciences and the Humanities and Brown University's Pembroke Center, Cogut Center for the Humanities, and Department of East Asian Studies. These three Brown academic units have since worked closely with Nanjing University to advance and develop the joint program through scholar and student exchanges, annual events, and publications. Lingzhen Wang, Associate Professor of East Asian Studies, directs the program for Brown and works with Professor Chengzhou He, Associate Director of the Institute for Advanced Studies, who directs the program for Nanjing University.

The fundamental goal of this transnational collaboration is to forge concrete alliances among scholars in gender studies and feminist theory in China, the United States, and other parts of the world, thereby creating a critical platform to promote and stimulate important dialogues about the global future of gender and feminist studies. The study of gender has profoundly



International Conference on Gender Research and Chinese Studies participants, Nanjing University, June 9-11, 2012

transformed the humanities, social sciences, and sciences in both the United States, since the 1970s, and China, since the 1980s. Due to limits of national policy and the contradictory effects of globalization, however, gender studies and feminist theory are facing local and global challenges. The Nanjing-Brown Joint Program in Gender Studies and the Humanities aims to address both the potential and the problems produced by globalization.

While at Nanjing University, Brown scholars participated in a three-day conference that brought together scholars from China, the United States, Europe, Hong Kong, and Tai-

wan to examine gender research in Chinese Studies. Scholars explored gender issues relating to late imperial Chinese literature and culture; (trans)gender performance and the body; modern Chinese literature, history and culture; and the market era.

Kay Warren, director of the Pembroke Center, delivered two lectures, one about anthropological approaches to violence and another on human trafficking. In the coming months, Professor Lingzhen Wang will be guest editing a special issue of the Pembroke Center's journal, *differences*,

Continued on page 5

Pembroke Center Associates Council

OFFICERS

Nancy L. Buc '65, LLD'94 hon.
Chair

Jean E. Howard '70
Vice-Chair

MEMBERS (as of July 1, 2012)

Bernicestine McLeod Bailey '68, P'99, P'03
Joan Weinberger Berman '74, P'05, P'11
Anne Buehl '88
Donna Chun '87
Emily Coe-Sullivan '99
Kay Gurtin '83, P'13
Ulle Viiraja Holt '66, AM'92, PhD'00, P'93, P'03
Carol Lemlein '67, P'90
Robin Lenhardt '89
Joan Hoost McMaster '60
Stephanie Morimoto '99
Leslie Newman '75, AM'75, P'08, P'12
Barbara Raab '81
Meg Saggese '06
Claudia Schechter '66
Gwenn Masterman Snider '83, P'13
Leah W. Sprague '66
Joanne Topol '77, P'14
Jasmine Waddell '99
Victoria Westhead '83
Ulla Wilska P'04
Enid Wilson '43

Ex Officio Members

Joan MacLeod Heminway '83
Jean Miller '49
Diane Lake Northrop '54, P'81, GP'13
Chelsey Carrier Remington '61, P'89, P'92
Eileen Rudden '72, P'03, P'07
Phyllis Kollmer Santry '66
Elizabeth Munves Sherman '77, P'06, P'09
Anita Spivey '74, P'09
Mary Aguiar Vascellaro '74, P'07
Beverly Heafitz Zweiman '66, P'01

Pembroke Center Staff

Kay Warren
Director

Christy Law Blanchard
Director of Program Outreach and Development

Denise Davis, AM '97, PhD '11
Managing Editor of differences

Donna Goodnow
Center Manager

Martha Hamblett
Programs and Stewardship Coordinator

Wendy Korwin
Archivist

Debbie Weinstein '93
Assistant Director

From the Director

Following on the heels of a very successful 2011-12 academic year, when the Pembroke Center celebrated our 30th anniversary, helped to commemorate 120 years of women at Brown, received an award from the National Council for Research on Women, and deepened our partnership with Nanjing University, I'm pleased to share the Center's ambitious plans for the year ahead:

Seed Grants: Thanks to the successful conclusion of the Pembroke Challenge last year, we will be calling for applications from Brown faculty for the Center's seed grants to support innovative research. Grants will support groups of scholars from different disciplines to create forums to explore transnational issues related to social change and intersecting categories of social difference. I look forward to sharing the news about our inaugural recipients in a future issue of this newsletter.

Pembroke Seminar: Led by Timothy Bewes, Professor of English, who first came to Brown as a Pembroke Center postdoctoral fellow, this year's seminar explores the many meanings and complexities of perception. Postdoctoral fellows, faculty fellows, selected graduate and undergraduate students, and visiting scholars from a wide array of fields including Film Studies, History of Science, Comparative Literature, Sociology, Music, and Religious Studies are participating.

New Undergraduate Courses: The Center's growing Gender and Sexuality Studies concentration will be offering new courses this year, including, "Media and Modern Childhood," "On Love and Intimacy," and "Affect and the Moving Image."

New Student Research Grants: The Pembroke Center has long supported undergraduate research. Starting this year, the Pembroke Center looks forward to awarding the new Beatrice Bloomingdale Steinhaus'33, P'60, P'65, GP'87, GP'91, GGP'16/Gertrude Rosenhirsch Zisson'30, P'61, P'63, GP'91 Pembroke Center Research Grants. For more information, please see related story on page 7.

Archives: The Pembroke Center will continue to digitize and make accessible oral histories of Brown alumnae on our Brown Women Speak website (www.brown.edu/initiatives/women-speak/) and add collections to our Feminist Theory Archives. To learn more about these resources, please see the related story on page 4.

With each new academic year, the Pembroke Center looks forward to renewing our work with Brown's community of scholars through our diverse programs. We remain thankful to all the members of the Pembroke Center Associates and our endowment donors whose generosity makes these programs possible.

Sincerely,



Kay B. Warren
Director

Pembroke Center Receives National Award

At its annual conference this June in Washington, D.C., the National Council for Research on Women (NCRW) presented the Pembroke Center with its “Lifetime Achievement Award” for what NCRW President Linda Basch noted was a “thirty-year commitment to cutting-edge research on women and gender.” NCRW is a network of 120 leading research, policy, and advocacy centers dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls. The Pembroke Center was a founding member and is actively engaged in the organization. Two-thirds of NCRW’s member centers are based on U.S. university campuses and are joined by a robust contingent of international centers.

NCRW observed that throughout its thirty-year history, the Pembroke Center has made an enormous impact through its innovative research initiatives and student and postdoctoral fellowships. NCRW added that the Pembroke Center is “renowned for its transnational and intersectional view of gender, and its commitment to developing the next generation of feminist scholars.”

In accepting the award, Pembroke Center Director Kay Warren discussed how an academic research center’s work intersects with the larger policy work done by NCRW and many of its member centers. “The Pembroke Center advances feminist scholarship that provides the foundation for the work of many policy and advocacy organizations that are part of the National Council for Research on Women’s network,” said Warren. “Our research informs many of the policy debates that surround issues of gender equity, reproductive rights, transnational migrant labor rights, human rights, education, work, and violence.”

Warren also underscored the importance of the Center’s postdoctoral fellowship and teaching programs. “Since our founding, we have awarded 91 postdoctoral fellowships, providing critical support to young scholars who spend a year at the Pembroke Center, where they work with other scholars from a variety of disciplines. By supporting these scholars, we play a crucial role in developing the careers of outstanding feminist scholars, many of whom go on to hold senior leadership positions at universities in the United States and around the world,” said Warren. “The Pembroke Center’s teaching program – including our Gender and Sexuality Studies concentration – has trained hundreds of undergraduates, women and men, in a wide variety of fields who pursue their own work and activism with a gendered perspective. They offer insightful social critiques so that wider publics become aware of the inequalities faced by women and girls and are moved to action.”



The timing of the award could not have been better as it came at the conclusion of the Pembroke Center’s celebration of its thirtieth anniversary during the 2011-12 academic year. “This national recognition is thanks to the hard work of Brown’s community of scholars and our alumnae/i supporters,” said Warren. “This unwavering support has allowed the Pembroke Center to grow, take risks, and invest in innovative programs for students, faculty, and postdoctoral fellows.”

Save the Date!

As part of Brown’s Family Weekend (October 19-21), the Pembroke Center Associates are pleased to offer the following program.



Please join the Pembroke Center for

**AN ALTERNATIVE TO NATURE V. NURTURE:
BIOLOGY IN A SOCIAL WORLD**

Friday, October 19, 2012

4:00 pm

Pembroke Hall Room 305

172 Meeting Street, Providence RI

The media is awash with reports of genes for this or that complex human trait: obesity, alcoholism, homosexuality, gender differences in math and science. A great divide exists between people who accept biological explanations of human difference and those who reject biology in favor of social explanations. Debbie Weinstein, Assistant Director of the Pembroke Center, will talk with Professor Fausto-Sterling about her research on human development and a new way to think about how biological difference can be produced over time in response to different environmental and social experiences.

A light reception will follow the program.

**Free and open to the public
Handicapped accessible**

**For more information contact:
Pembroke_Associates@brown.edu
or visit www.pembrokecenter.org**

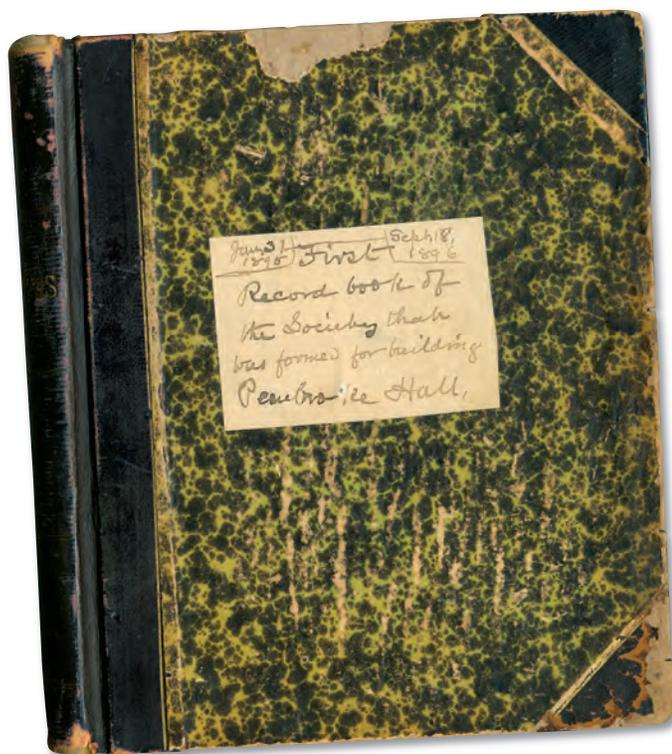
**For information about registration
and the complete Family Weekend
schedule, please visit:
[http://www.brown.edu/campus-life/
events/family-weekend/home](http://www.brown.edu/campus-life/events/family-weekend/home)**

Have You Explored Your Archives Lately?

Are you planning for an upcoming reunion? Are you interested in women's history? Do you want to explore the life and accomplishments of an interesting alumna? Are you excited about the University's celebration of its 250th anniversary in 2014? The Christine Dunlap Farnham Archive is a wonderful resource for you to explore.

The Pembroke Center has long pursued the archiving of Brown and Rhode Island women's history. Established in 1983 in memory of Christine Dunlap Farnham '48, the Farnham Archive is housed primarily in the John Hay Library and is an important part of the Brown University Archives. This collection sheds light on – and makes accessible to scholars – the history of women at Brown University and the history of women's activities as private and public figures in the State of Rhode Island and its towns and cities.

These women share a common history stretching back to the 1880s, as it was the women of Rhode Island and the Rhode Island Society for the Collegiate Education of Women who fought for the admission of women to Brown University and raised the funds to build Pembroke Hall and establish Pembroke College in Brown University. The Farnham Archive documents this history and the evolving legacy of the women of Brown University, who have “fulfilled the offices of life with usefulness and reputation.” Their collective impact extends beyond Brown University and Rhode Island, as these women continue their remarkable accomplishments around the world.



A small sampling of items you may find in the Christine Dunlap Farnham Archive

The Christine Dunlap Farnham Archive includes a rich array of materials for use in scholarly research:

- letters, diaries, and other recollections of personal and professional life**
- draft and final versions of dissertations, manuscripts, and other academic materials**
- photographs**
- museum objects such as pins, pendants, and clothing**
- yearbooks, scrapbooks, newspapers, and periodicals**
- oral history recordings**
- digital objects**

We hope that these resources will help you explore our collective history. For more information about accessing the Christine Dunlap Farnham Archive – or if you have something you would like to donate to the Archive – please contact us at pembroke_archives@brown.edu or (401) 863-6268.

Notebook of the Rhode Island Society for the Collegiate Education of Women

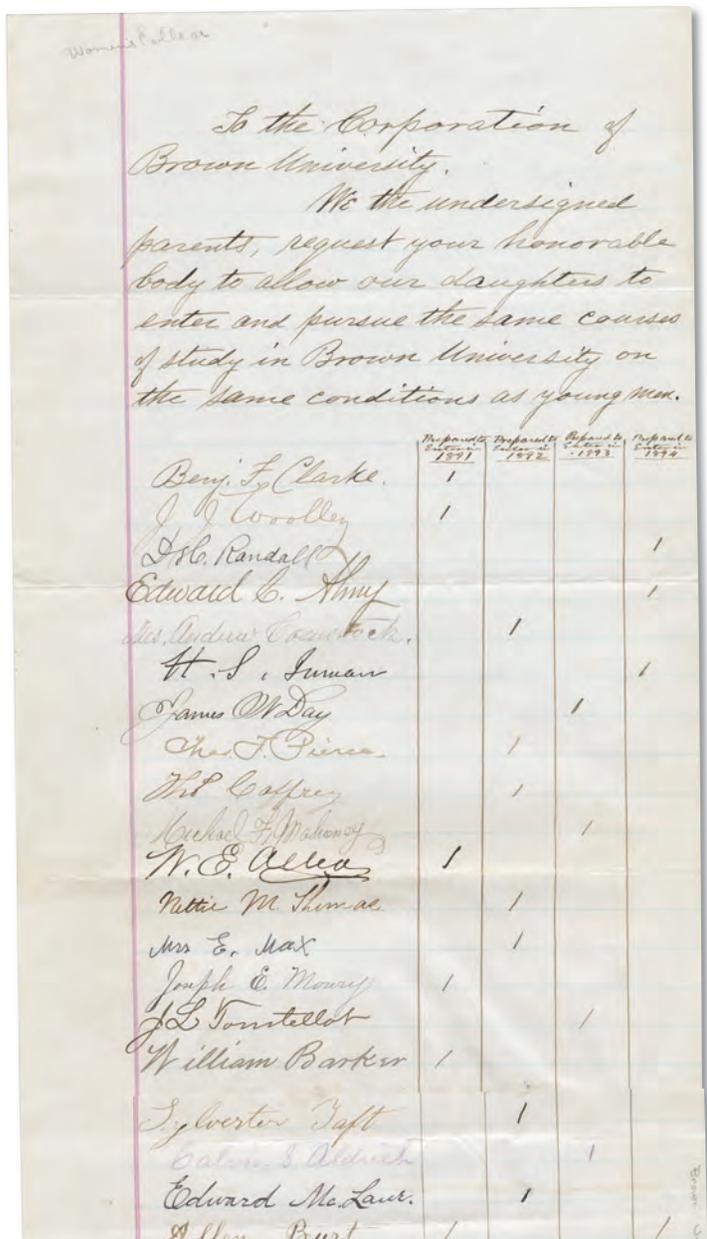
Christine Dunlap Farnham Archive: Online Resources

Recognizing that not everyone can get to campus easily, the Pembroke Center Associates have undertaken a number of projects to make archival materials accessible on our website: <http://pembrokecenter.org/associates/history.html>.

Brown Women Speak - For nearly three decades, the Associates have been recording oral histories of Brown women, in both individual and group formats. There are over 100 recordings in the collection. First recorded on audiocassette tapes, more recent oral histories were videotaped. With the help of the Brown University Library, the Pembroke Center Associates have been digitizing oral history recordings of Brown women and showcasing them on this website that provides contextual information, photographs, and links to other Brown history resources.

Pembroke Record Digital Archives - From 1922 to 1970, the *Pembroke Record* documented and commented on life at Pembroke College in Brown University. Although the *Pembroke Record* ceased publishing decades ago, it has remained a valuable archival resource and an irreplaceable part of the history of women at Brown University. Unfortunately, the physical, bound copies of the *Pembroke Record* are deteriorating with age and extensive use. The Pembroke Center Associates undertook the effort, in partnership with the Brown University Library, to digitize the entire run of the *Pembroke Record*.

Online Exhibits – Periodically, the Pembroke Center exhibits items from the Christine Dunlap Farnham Archive at the John Hay Library. When the exhibit is over, we create digital exhibits that may be viewed at anytime. These online exhibits provide a window into the larger archival collection and help tell the story of Brown and Rhode Island women.



Partnership with Nanjing University

Continued from page 1

which will draw on papers from the conference and engage with other scholars to explore Chinese gender formations from diverse theoretical approaches. Unique in its range and focus, this issue will generate critical insights and new perspectives for the study of Chinese history, gender and sexuality, and feminist culture.

“We are very gratified to see the partnership between Nanjing University and Brown University flourish,” said Wang. “As Brown President Christina Paxson noted, Brown aspires to ‘become a truly global university.’ The Nanjing-Brown Joint Program in Gender Studies and the Humanities forges vital alliances with Chinese scholars and provides faculty from both universities with unparalleled opportunities to examine the global future of gender and feminist studies and its implications for higher education in both countries.”

A petition to the Corporation of Brown University from Rhode Island parents requesting the University admit women students.

Alison Klayman '06: Director of Award-Winning Documentary *Ai Weiwei: Never Sorry*



PHOTO CREDIT: MONIC WOLLSCHLÄGER

Alison Klayman '06

Ai Weiwei is one of China's most famous artists and domestic critics who blends activism and art in provocative ways. *Ai Weiwei: Never Sorry* is a powerful documentary about his work and struggles against censorship.

Ai was an outspoken critic of China's handling of the 2008 Sichuan earthquake in which over 5,000 students lost their lives due to shoddily built schools. Ai sent over 150 inquiries about the victims and used the Internet to resist the government's unwillingness to acknowledge the full scale of the tragedy. Ai's "Sichuan Earthquake Names Project" listed the names of 5,212 dead students, and he found a way around China's "Great Firewall" to use social media to post the names of the dead children on their birthdays and involve others in reading the names.

His activism has come at a heavy price. Chinese authorities shut down his blog, beat him, bulldozed his newly built studio, and held him in secret detention for eighty-one days. *Ai Weiwei: Never Sorry* provides a window into his life's work and the Chinese government's response.

The film was directed and produced by Alison Klayman '06, who moved to China after graduating from Brown to learn Mandarin and work as a journalist and filmmaker. She met Ai when she was asked to shoot a video for an exhibition of his photographs. She filmed footage for the documentary from December 2008 to late 2011 and traveled with Ai throughout China, Europe, and the United States. Klayman is a 2011 Sundance Documentary Fellow and was named one of *Filmmaker's* "25 New Faces of Independent Film."

While a student at Brown, the Pembroke Center supported one of her early film projects. Klayman and Julia Liu '06 made a documentary about activist women students at Brown. The film explored the 1968 black student walkout, the 1990s "date rape wall," and activism for gender-neutral housing in the 2000s.

"Working on *Women's Only* was really my first practical experience in documentary film, and one of the biggest lessons for my filmmaking partner Julia Liu and me was that the most interesting stories often emerge from the interviews and investigation process. We started by interviewing almost a dozen Pembroke alumnae at their reunion weekend and ended up accidentally stumbling upon the first story of the three we focused on in our film," said Klayman. "It was through these open-ended interviews about the women's experiences at Pembroke that we learned about the significant role of Pembroke's in initiating the African-American student walkout in 1968. This is still an important lesson to me that I applied and affirmed with *Ai Weiwei: Never Sorry*—it pays off to treat a documentary like an open-ended investigation, and let what you find from your legwork dictate what the film is really about."

"*Women's Only* was supported by the CV Starr National Service Fellowship and the Pembroke Center. That was the first time anyone believed in me to make a film," said Klayman. "My experience was primarily in journalism, working at Brown's radio stations and for National Public Radio in the summer (my filmmaking partner Julia Liu was the one with a film background). *Women's Only* was the first time I conducted on-camera interviews, while Julia filmed, and we edited together. I also did extensive archival research at the University Archives, which not only had applications for future film projects but also for my history honors thesis my senior year."



PHOTO CREDIT: NEVER SORRY LLC

Securing support for her film projects remains an important part of her work. “Several years later, my first feature film *Never Sorry* was also funded in large part through foundations,” explained Klayman. “The aspect of fundraising is vital for any independent filmmaker, and I learned early on that cultivating funding relationships with stakeholder organizations makes a lot of sense.”

When asked what’s next, she said she is finishing a book project related to the film and traveling with the film speaking at institutions around the country and world. “I’m looking forward to being back on campus in October to speak at the Watson Institute’s Global Media Project and show the film as part of the Ivy Film Festival’s year-long series,” said Klayman. “I’m also working to develop ideas for my next feature film project.”

To learn more about Ai Weiwei, the film, and Klayman’s filmmaking process, please visit:

<http://www.aiweiweineversorry.com/>

Chinese artist and activist Ai Weiwei

Pembroke Center to Offer New Research Grants to Graduate and Undergraduate Students

The Pembroke Center is always proud of the student research we help support. By offering research grants, we provide resources for Brown’s students to embark on more ambitious research projects than they would otherwise be able to do. This year, we are pleased to be offering the new Steinhaus/Zisson Pembroke Center Research Grants, which are being made available to both undergraduate and graduate students.

Nancy Steinhaus Zisson ’65, P’91 and William Zisson ’63, P’91 established the Steinhaus/Zisson Fund in memory of their mothers, Beatrice Bloomingdale Steinhaus ’33, P’60, P’65, GP’87, GP’91 and Gertrude Rosen-

hirsch Zisson ’30, P’61, P’63, GP’91, and the life changing education that they received at Pembroke College in Brown University. The fund was created in recognition of their family members who are alumnae and alumni of Brown University, including Margaret Steinhaus Sheppe ’60, P’87, Harry R. Zisson ’61, William Zisson ’63, P’91, Nancy Steinhaus Zisson ’65, P’91, Laura Sheppe Miller ’87, Michael B. Miller ’87, Alex Zisson ’91, and Emma Miller ’16. These two women inspired a love of learning in their children and grandchildren and a strong belief that education and self-improvement are important aspects of personal growth that do not stop with the end of for-

mal schooling. They believed profoundly in women’s rights and affordable education as a means to achieving these goals.

Student research may be on any topic related to the work of the Pembroke Center, with preference given to research on women’s education, health, community activism, philanthropy, economic status, rights, and well-being in the United States and in developing countries around the world. A faculty selection committee will review applications and award the grants based on merit. We look forward to profiling our inaugural Steinhaus/Zisson grant recipients in the spring.

Pembroke Center
for TEACHING AND RESEARCH ON WOMEN

Brown University
Box 1958
Providence, RI 02912
www.pembrokecenter.org

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 202
Providence, RI

Yes! I'd like to make a gift to the Pembroke Center Associates!

Membership gifts to the Pembroke Center Associates support the diverse research, teaching, and alumnae/i programs sponsored by the Pembroke Center.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000 + Sarah Doyle Society | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 – \$499 Sponsor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$2,500 – \$4,999 Anna Canada Swain Partners | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 – \$249 Sustaining Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 – \$2,499 Elisha Benjamin Andrews Benefactors | <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 – \$99 Contributing Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 – \$999 Patron | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 – \$74 Associate Member |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____ |

Name _____ Class/Affiliation _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

My check is enclosed, payable to Brown University.

Please charge my credit card:

MasterCard Visa American Express Discover

Account number _____ Expiration _____

Signature _____

Please return this form with payment to:
Pembroke Center Associates, Box 1877, Brown University, Providence, RI 02912

You also may contribute to the Pembroke Center Associates via Brown University's secure Web server: <https://gifts.development.brown.edu/pembroke/>

Questions? Please call 401-863-3650

See who else is a member: www.pembrokecenter.org/associates/current