

Pembroke Center Associates

Newsletter

Celebrating the History of the Associates



Recipients of student research grants and prizes funded by the Pembroke Center Associates stand next to the Pembroke Tribute.

As the Pembroke Center commemorates its 30th anniversary, we are pleased to publish a short history of the Pembroke Center Associates. Membership donations make it possible for the Center to provide Brown faculty, students, and postdoctoral fellows with funding, scholarly forums, publications, courses, and archives that are the lifeblood of innovative research and teaching excellence. In addition to providing direct support of the Center, the Associates offer programs and produce publications that allow the entire Brown community opportunities to become engaged with the Center's work.

Early History

The Center's name was chosen "to honor Pembroke College and to indicate continuity with its long tradition of

educational excellence for women." Shortly after the Center's founding in the spring of 1981, Christine Dunlap Farnham '48 initiated the effort to develop an alumnae component to support programs to complement the Center's academic research mission and to help secure the Center's future. Although the Center had received generous funding from the Ford Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities, it was understood that these grants were seed money. In order for the Pembroke Center to grow and endure, it would need strong institutional support. Pembroke Center Director Joan Wallach Scott and Associate Director Elizabeth Weed agreed that alumnae leadership would be essential. Outreach to alumnae began, and Nancy L. Buc '65 agreed to co-chair the newly formed Pembroke

Center Associates project with Susan Davis '63. The first meeting of the group took place on March 11, 1982. Even before that first meeting, the project had begun to receive gifts from enthusiastic alumnae. The early Associates were part of an advisory board consisting of alumnae, friends, and scholars involved in women's research. They assisted in planning activities and establishing an archives of material related to the history of women at Brown and Pembroke College, and – because Brown women have contributed so much to the local community – of Rhode Island women's organizations and community activities.

Membership Grows

By the fall of 1982, the Pembroke Center Associates had evolved into an organization chaired by Chris Farnham. By 1983, enough supporters of the Center had joined to justify the establishment of the Associates Council to coordinate the activities of the Associates, help publicize the work and resources of the Pembroke Center, and expand the base of the Center's support. As of the end of October 1983, 283 donors had contributed \$10,172.50 in membership gifts. In addition, a donor stepped forward to make the first contribution of \$1,000 to the Pembroke Center endowment fund, although the campaign to raise endowment funds had not yet begun.

Preserving Women's History through Archives

The original application for funding for the Archives named as goals, "first to preserve and transmit the history of this important institution [Pembroke College] for women's higher education and second, to

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Pembroke Center Associates Council

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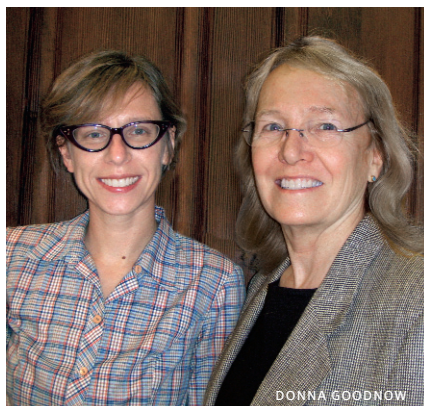
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Archivist

Deborah Weinstein '93
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From the Director



Wendy Korwin and Kay Warren

It gives me great pleasure to introduce Wendy Korwin, the Pembroke Center's new archivist, who will be leading the Center's archival work. Wendy came to the Pembroke Center from the College of William and Mary, where she taught courses in Women's Studies and worked as a reference librarian. She holds an M.S. in Library and Information Science from Simmons College and is currently pursuing her PhD in American Studies from William and Mary. Her archival experience stems from an internship with the City of Boston Archives, where she worked with the records of the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen, and the Special Collections Research Center at William and Mary, where she spent several years as a graduate assistant processing collections for the Manuscripts Department and the University Archives. Her academic research focuses on literacy and visual perception in the early twentieth century, and she hopes to apply her questions about what is seen and unseen, read and unread, to the unique material held in the archives.

Wendy guides the Pembroke Center's work on both the Feminist Theory Archives and the Christine Dunlap Farnham Archives. The Feminist Theory Archives makes available the work of leading feminist and critical theory scholars who have transformed



their disciplines as well as the field of feminist theory. The Christine Dunlap Farnham Archive focuses on nineteenth and twentieth-century Brown and Rhode Island women and their organizations. We are thrilled to have her expertise here on staff at the Pembroke Center and hope many of you will have the opportunity to meet and work with her.

As the Pembroke Center celebrates its 30th anniversary this year and the University marks the occasion of 120 Years of Women at Brown, we understand how important our history is. Documenting how feminist scholars reshaped the intellectual landscape of universities in the United States and internationally through the Feminist Theory Archives and preserving how Brown women transformed our university through the Christine Dunlap Farnham Archives could not be more important.

As with all of our work, the Pembroke Center could not enjoy these successes without your membership support. Thank you for choosing to be a part of the Pembroke Center's history and ensuring that we preserve our collective history for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Kay Warren
Director

Thirty Years of Pembroke Center History



Joan Wallach Scott works with alumnae, colleagues and students on the first Associates brochure.

1981 – The Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women is founded. The Center's name was chosen "to honor Pembroke College and to indicate continuity with its long tradition of educational excellence for women." Historian Joan Wallach Scott is named founding director.

1982 – The Pembroke Center convenes the first Pembroke Seminar, a year-long research seminar that brings together postdoctoral fellows, faculty, selected students, and visiting scholars to explore a common set of research questions.

1983 – The Pembroke Center Associates Council is formally established to govern the Associates organization. The first Women's Studies concentrators graduate from Brown.

1984 – The Pembroke Center names its archive project to preserve women's history in memory of Christine Dunlap Farnham⁴⁸.

1985 – The Pembroke Center holds an international conference on "Feminism/Theory/Politics," with standing room only in Alumnae Hall.

1987 – Karen Newman is appointed director of the Pembroke Center.

1989 – The first issue of *differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies* is published.

1992 – With funding from the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities, the Pembroke Center and the Brown University Library mount an exhibition in celebration of the one-hundredth anniversary of women at Brown: "A Matter of Simple Justice: One Hundred Years of Women's Higher Education in Rhode Island, 1892-1992."

1993 – Ellen Rooney is appointed Center director.

1996 – Anne Fausto-Sterling delivers the inaugural Women's Studies Lecture, "Do Sex Hormones Really Exist?"

1997 – The Center establishes the Marie J. Langlois Prize for an outstanding dissertation in the area of feminist studies to honor Langlois for chairing the Pembroke Center's first endowment campaign.

1999 – The Pembroke Center celebrates the completion of its first \$3,000,000 endowment campaign goal.

2000 – Elizabeth Weed is named director of the Center.

2001 – The Center celebrates its twentieth anniversary with a conference titled "The Edge," featuring the latest work of current and former Nancy Duke Lewis professors as well as former postdoctoral fellows. The first Gender Studies concentrators graduate, after the concentration name is changed from "Women's Studies."

2004 – The Pembroke Center launches its first research initiative, "Embodiment," which seeks to develop a dynamic systems approach for studying the emergence of sex-related differences in child behavior. Developed from Anne Fausto-Sterling's Pembroke Seminar in 2002-03, the project continues under the direction of Anne Fausto-Sterling, Professor of Biology, and Cynthia Garcia-Coll, Professor of Education, Psychology, and Pediatrics.

2008 – The Pembroke Center moves into the newly renovated Pembroke Hall along with the Cogut Center for the Humanities. The first concentrators graduate with the degree in "Gender and Sexuality Studies."

2009 – The Pembroke Center dedicates the Feminist Theory Archives. The Center's journal *differences* celebrates its 20th anniversary with a conference: "Critical Theory Today."

2010 – The University appoints Kay Warren director of the Pembroke Center.

2011 – The Pembroke Center celebrates its 30th anniversary with a scholarly conference, "Theory on the Move: Three Decades of Critical Feminist Thinking."

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Wendy Kopp, President Ruth Simmons, Hillary Salmons, and Mary Vascellaro '74, P'07 at the Associates' Leadership Award Ceremony in 2009.

involve Brown undergraduates, particularly women, in the process of uncovering and understanding a hidden aspect of their institution's history." The project began in September 1982, with Brown students conducting oral histories of alumnae.

In 1984, Chris Farnham died tragically in an automobile accident. A group of her friends and her husband established a committee to raise the funds that would establish what had been the Pembroke Archives as a memorial to Chris. The Christine Dunlap Farnham Archives Fund, with generous help from Martha Joukowsky '58, PHB'82 hon., LHD'85 hon., P'87, GP'13, GP'14, and Artemis Joukowsky '55, LLD'85 hon., P'87, GP'13, GP'14 allowed for the employment of an archivist who spent two years researching and cataloging materials relating to women hidden throughout the Brown University Library's special collections. The archivist devoted another year to adding to the existing collection and compiling a 500-page guide to the Farnham Archives. Oral histories from alumnae from each 25th and 50th reunion class and papers and memorabilia donated by alumnae/i continue to be added. In recent years, the Associates mounted an exhibit from the Archives in the John Hay Library and raised funds to digitize the *Pembroke Record* – the student newspaper of Pembroke College in Brown University.

In 2009, the Pembroke Center dedicated a new archival collection, the Feminist Theory Archives. This collection features the work of scholars who brought feminism into the vanguard of academic research and transformed their fields. The collection preserves the legacies of prominent feminist thinkers and now includes the papers of fourteen scholars, with more than a hundred scholars committed to donating their papers in the future.

Programs

In the fall of 1983, the Center began presenting Alumnae Forums to bring alumnae to campus to discuss their professional experiences. Programs touched on many professions including law, publishing, science, medicine, social change, journalism, and business. Two-day workshops featured topics such as dual-career families, the mission of the National Museum of Women in the Arts, women's health, and reproductive rights. The Associates continue to sponsor regional programs off campus on diverse topics such as children's literature, the mass media, women in politics, hip-hop music, and humanitarianism.

In 1991-92, the University celebrated the 100th anniversary of the admission of women to Brown. The Pembroke Center and the Associates were active participants in the commemorative events. The Pembroke Center's role

in continuing the mission of Pembroke College was discussed at a forum, "The Pembroke Center: Educating Women Today." The Center also co-sponsored (with the Brown University Library and a grant from the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities) an exhibit, lecture series, and dramatic revue, "A Matter of Simple Justice: One Hundred Years of Women's Higher Education in Rhode Island, 1892-1992." In addition, *The Search for Equity: Women at Brown University, 1891-1991*, edited by historian Polly Welts Kaufman '51, a charter member of the Associates Council, was published by the Trustees of the University.

In 2006, the Pembroke Center Associates inaugurated the Leadership for Change through Education Award to recognize women in any field who succeed in changing lives by helping others to see the world differently and offering new ways of thinking about seemingly unsolvable problems. National award recipients include: Marian Wright Edelman, President of the Children's Defense Fund; Margot Stern Strom, Founder and Executive Director, Facing History and Ourselves; and Wendy Kopp, Chief Executive Officer and Founder, Teach For America. Local award recipients include: Sister Mary Reilly, founder of Dorcas Place and Sophia Academy; H. Terri Adelman, Executive Director, Volunteers in Providence Schools; and Hillary Salmons, Executive Director, Providence After School Alliance.

The Pembroke Center Associates carry on a longstanding tradition of presenting commencement forums on some of the most engaging issues of the day. Topics have included: women of the 1950s, myths of gender, healthcare, political correctness, feminism and families, education, religion, sex education, the economy, human trafficking, and playwrighting.

Philanthropic Support: A Continuing Tradition

From 1982-86, significant grants from the Ford Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Rockefeller Foundation supported the Center. Recognizing that such grants were not predictable,

the Associates decided it was time to build an endowment to ensure the Center's work in the future.

Although small sums of money had been donated to the Center's endowment since its founding, the Center needed an endowment large enough to support postdoctoral fellowships, research seminars, lecture series, publications, and other activities vital to the Center's work. In 1986, the Associates formally launched a campaign to raise \$3 million for the Center's endowment. Marie J. Langlois'63, LLD'92 hon. chaired the Endowment Committee. In 1999, the Pembroke Center surpassed its \$3 million endowment goal, an achievement that would not have been possible without the direct philanthropic support and leadership of the Associates.

In 2003, Brown launched the Boldly Brown campaign to support President Ruth J. Simmons' Plan for Academic Enrichment. The Pembroke Center was formally included in the campaign, and the Associates played a vital role by making and soliciting gifts, hosting events, and producing special publications. Today, the market value of the Center's endowment

stands at approximately \$9 million, thanks to new campaign gifts. Additional bequests and pledges of over \$2.5 million will add to the endowment over time.

In 2010, Elizabeth Munves Sherman '77, P'06, P'09 and David Sherman '79, P'06, P'09 launched the Pembroke Challenge to engage the wider Brown community to raise \$1,000,000 in support of innovative research initiatives at the Pembroke Center. The endowment supports the Pembroke Center's efforts to bring together interdisciplinary groups of Brown researchers and colleagues at other institutions to investigate the complexities of social change. Areas of research interest include medicine, science, public policy, reproduction, and the migration of people across borders.

Although a growing endowment is critical to the Pembroke Center's future, the membership gifts that the Associates make every year also provide essential support. Hundreds of alumnae/i, parents, faculty, and friends are members of the Pembroke Center Associates. Their ongoing support is vital to the Center's fiscal stability.

Leadership for the Future

The Pembroke Center links Brown's present, past, and future. The Pembroke Center Associates' work supports these linkages by advancing its research agenda, supporting students interested in studying gender and difference, and providing alumnae/i with opportunities to remain intellectually engaged with the Center's work.

Associates from Brown's alumnae/i body represent the decades from the 1930s to the present. Associates are also Brown parents, students, staff, community members, and friends. They live all around the world, work in a variety of fields, and have wide-ranging interests. What this diverse group has in common is an interest in issues of concern to women—their education, their professional opportunities, the quality of their lives, and the larger cultural, economic, social, and international issues that affect us all. As the Center celebrates its 30th Anniversary this year, the Associates take pride in their essential role in securing a strong foundation for the Pembroke Center and making its future ever brighter.

Theory on the Move: Three Decades of Critical Feminist Thinking

A Scholarly Conference in Celebration of the Pembroke Center's 30th Anniversary

Saturday, November 5th, 2011
9:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
Pembroke Hall, 172 Meeting Street
Brown University, Providence, RI

Scholars at the forefront of critical thinking have helped transform research agendas across the Academy. How have they raised new issues in their disciplines and recast critical feminist theory in the process? Please join us to explore how critical feminist theory has changed the very questions that scholars ask and compelled them to ground their research within interdisciplinary perspectives. Where will the future of critical feminist theory take us?

Sandy Alexandre, Literature,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Lisa Cartwright, Communication
and Science Studies, University of
California – San Diego

Margherita Long, Comparative
Literature, University of California –
Riverside

Afsaneh Najmabadi, History and
Studies of Women, Gender and
Sexuality, Harvard University

Anne Norton, Political Science,
University of Pennsylvania

Sylvia Schafer, History, University
of Connecticut

Jenny Sharpe, English and
Comparative Literature, University
of California – Los Angeles

Charles Shepherdson, English, State
University of New York – Albany

Sharika Thiranagama, Anthropology,
The New School for Social Research

During the conference there will be a luncheon conversation at 12:30 pm with former Pembroke Center directors Joan Wallach Scott, Karen Newman, Ellen Rooney, and Elizabeth Weed. **Kindly RSVP to** Pembroke_Center@brown.edu or (401) 863-3433 if you plan to join us for the luncheon.

Free and open to the public. Handicapped accessible. For a complete conference schedule visit www.pembrokecenter.org

Pembroke Center Associates Membership Gifts Received July 1, 2010–June 30, 2011

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