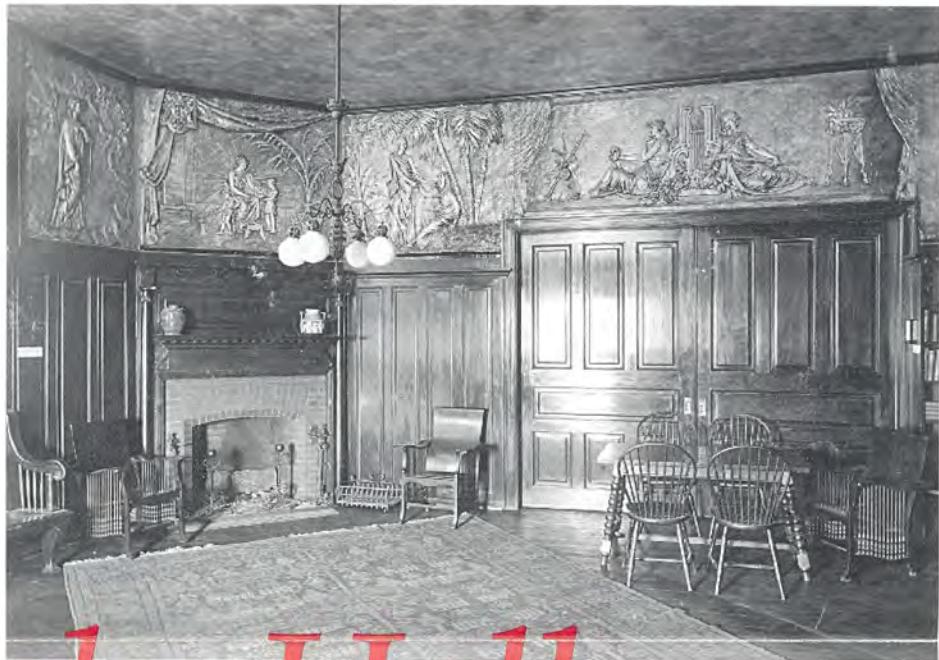


# Pembroke Associates' News

BROWN UNIVERSITY

Vol. 15 No. 1, Winter 1998

ALTHOUGH WOMEN  
were admitted to take  
classes at Brown in 1891,



## Pembroke Hall

it was the dedication  
of Pembroke Hall  
on November 22, 1897  
that insured that  
women would be  
officially welcomed at  
Brown University.



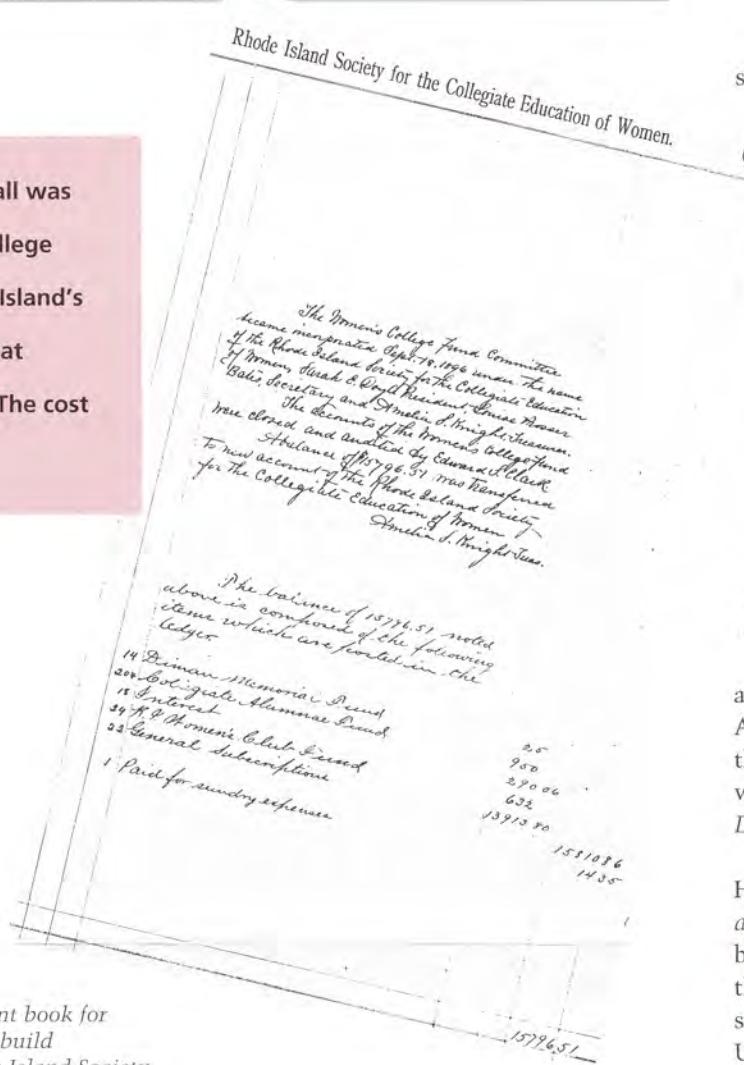
President Benjamin Andrews' appeal to Rhode Island philanthropists to raise half a million dollars for permanent facilities for a co-ordinate women's college at Brown fell on deaf ears. Neither they nor members of the Brown Corporation were convinced that women's education at the school would be permanent. Andrews was convinced, and he therefore turned to the women's club movement in Rhode Island under the leadership of Sarah E. Doyle, a retired

## Turns 100

Providence school teacher, for help in raising the necessary funds.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrews invited eighteen leading club women, including Miss Doyle, to their home for tea in January of 1895. At this meeting the women organized a fund-raising committee which eventually became the Rhode Island Society for the Collegiate Education of Women (RISCEW). These women determined to raise the money themselves, without any appeal to the Brown Corpo-

The name Pembroke Hall was chosen to honor the college Roger Williams, Rhode Island's founder, had attended at Cambridge University. The cost was \$37,601.06.



The first page from the account book for the fund raising campaign to build Pembroke Hall by The Rhode Island Society for the Collegiate Education of Women.

ration. The minutes of RISCEW's meetings and its treasury books (stored in the Christine Dunlap Farnham Archives in the University Archives in the John Hay Library) indicate the painstaking effort of the women to raise funds – some pages are filled with \$1 or \$2 contributions – from personal savings and women's club accounts. Local politicians and businessmen were asked to make contributions to honor a particular woman in their lives, and many responded. Success was achieved quickly, and in only two and a half years the building was completed and formally dedicated. The name Pembroke Hall was chosen to honor the college Roger Williams, Rhode Island's founder, had attended at Cambridge University. The cost was \$37,601.06.

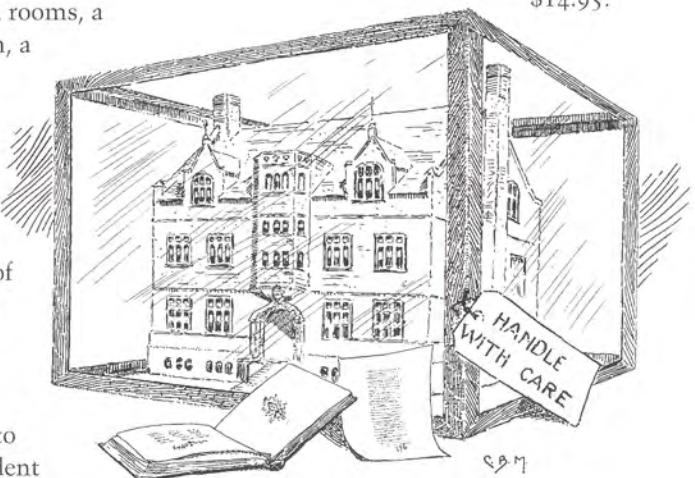
The dedication of Pembroke Hall, which housed recitation rooms, a library and reading room, a lunchroom, gymnastic facilities on the top floor, lockers and dressing rooms in the basement, and spaces for social and religious activities, was final proof that women were a permanent part of Brown University. On a cold November day Sarah Doyle handed the keys to Pembroke Hall to President Andrews, and delivered a stirring dedication speech in which she celebrated women's sphere as one of "infinite and indeterminate radius".

After the opening of Sayles Gymnasium in 1907 and Alumnae Hall in 1927, Pembroke Hall was renovated for academic purposes, including a library on the third floor. In the summer of 1993, the library was closed and the books moved to the Rockefeller and John Hay Libraries. Today this room is a computer station; also housed in Pembroke Hall are Career Planning Services, part of the Student Employment Office, and several classrooms. But to those who know the history of Brown University, Pembroke Hall will always stand as an important symbol of the history of women's education.

Thanks to **Diane Lake Northrop '54**, a member of the Pembroke Center Associates Council, at whose urging this important date was acknowledged with a front-page article in the *Brown Daily Herald* and in this newsletter.

You can read the story of Pembroke Hall in *The Search for Equity: Women at Brown University, 1891–1991*, edited by **Polly Welts Kaufman '51**, as well as the complete history of women as students, alumnae, and faculty at the University. You can order books by sending a check payable to Brown University to Barbara Anton at the Pembroke Center, Box 1958; hardcover is \$29.95,

paperback is  
\$14.95.



This sketch appeared in the 1899 men's yearbook, two years after Pembroke Hall was dedicated and women were assured a permanent presence at Brown.



Joanne Lee speaks to alumnae/i and friends at the Center's 1997 Commencement Forum.

## Commencement 1997

**Joanne Lee**, the Pembroke Center's Commencement Forum speaker for 1997, titled her talk "Why Not?" She referred specifically to George Bernard Shaw's comment: "Some men see things as they are and say 'Why?' I dream things that never were and say 'Why Not?'"

Ms. Lee took up the challenge of this question, and has emerged as a pioneer in her own country, Korea. As a young widow with two daughters, one a Brown alumna from the class of 1995, Ms. Lee earned a Masters degree and began her business career by breaking a barrier for women when she became a manager in Korea's only five-star international hotel. Then in 1976, she founded Star Communications, Inc., an international public relations and communications consulting service. As president of this company, Ms. Lee helps international businesses and foreign governments do business with and in South Korea and organizes and promotes major international conferences and exhibitions. In another first for a woman in Korea, she was elected as the senior vice-president of the 1500-member American Chamber of Commerce in Korea. Currently she

has three best sellers to her credit and is a sought-after guest on television talk shows and lecture circuits in her country.

An enthusiastic crowd, including many Korean women from the New England area, greeted Ms. Lee at a reception following the talk.

For the third year, the Pembroke Center taped group oral histories of the 50th reunion class and one other selected class, this year the Class of 1977, during Commencement weekend. The alumnae were videotaped this year instead of audio taped. Lively discussions of life at Brown, and after Brown, featured **Avis Goldstein Feldman, Jane Walsh Folcarelli, Joanne Vardarkis Hologgitas, Betty Asadorian Kougasian, Natalie Brush Lewis, Elizabeth Skinner Maxwell, and June Miller Wilbur** from the Class of 1947. Including an oral history as part of their 20th reunion celebration were: **Amy Finn Binder; Eve Borenstein; Kathleen Buechel; Jean Follett; Nora Hiatt; Ava Seave; Jane Weinberg**. These tapes will become part of the permanent oral history collection in the Farnham Archives.

The first annual reception for Pembroke Center prize winners was held on Friday afternoon of Commencement weekend. The Center awards three prizes each May: the Marie J. Langlois Prize for an outstanding Ph.D. dissertation in the area of feminist studies; the Joan Wallach Scott Prize for an outstanding senior honors thesis in the field of Women's Studies; and the Helen Terry MacLeod Prize for an outstanding honors thesis, from any field, on issues related to women and gender. The Langlois Prize winner was **Marcia Brennan** whose field is History of Art and Architecture. **Emma Wasserman** won the MacLeod Prize for her thesis in Religious Studies, and **Rose-Ellen Lessy** won the Scott Prize in Women's Studies. Parents, friends, faculty, and Associates mingled with the winners and other students, and were able to peruse the winning theses and to realize the exceptional quality of the students' work.



## The Sarah Doyle Women's Center Welcomes a New Director

In October 1996, **Margaret Klawunn** took over as the new director of the Sarah Doyle Center. She comes to Brown from Rutgers University where she worked in the Office of Student Affairs as the director of Special Projects. Klawunn completed her doctorate in English at Rutgers in 1996 and is also teaching in the English Department at Brown.

Margaret Klawunn is reinforcing and at the same time rethinking the role of a women's center in today's college environment. She sees, as part of her major role, the formation of new partnerships between the Center and other organizations at Brown, such as women athletes, sorority sisters, and women of color. The Center now houses WISE, a large, active group of undergraduate women in science and engineering. During her first year Klawunn has sponsored programs to reach faculty and

staff at Brown, a new and important role for the Center. Among programs currently supported by staff are a noon-time reading group, a care-givers group, and a series on women's health issues. Faculty are being honored with book-signing parties for their new publications. And in August of 1997, the Center sponsored an exhibit of staff artists in its gallery. The response was so positive, with staff from all over Brown entering their work, that another exhibit will be held in June of 1998. The Sarah Doyle Gallery features several juried exhibits for artists during the academic year, and a new feature under Klawunn has been a noon-time program giving each artist a chance to discuss her/his work with interested students and staff in conjunction with the opening of each new exhibit. Further, the Gallery is part of the Providence-wide **Artrolley**, a monthly evening program where community people board a trolley downtown and are taken on a tour of several galleries throughout the city. Community groups, such as a Providence Portuguese-American women's group and Children of Adult Alcoholics also use the Center for meetings.

Administratively, the Sarah Doyle Center has two paid staff, Klawunn and a part-time secretary. Students are crucial to the running of the Center, with twelve paid student coordinators (library, gallery, programming, etc.) and sixty to seventy student volunteers. Klawunn is quick to point out that men are welcome at the Center also, in fact, men's groups have used the Center's meeting spaces throughout the years. And everyone is welcome to use the library, which houses the largest collection of publications by and about women at Brown.

Margaret Klawunn and her husband, a poet and teacher, are balancing careers with their roles as parents of two-year-old twins Gil and Luke and one-year-old Sarah.

Associates are welcome to be put on the Sarah Doyle mailing list to receive notices of the many events and programs taking place. Contact Sheila Kramer, Box 1829, Brown University, phone 863-1781.



L to R. Marie J. Langlois Prize winner Marcia Brennan, Ph.D. '97, Carolyn Dean, Associate Professor of History, and Javette P. Laramont '80, member of the Pembroke Center Associates Council, at the reception for Pembroke Center prize winners.

## Other Center News

The Pembroke Center welcomed Director **Ellen Rooney** back from her 1996–97 sabbatical leave. Rooney is nearing completion of the book she worked on during her leave, entitled "Criticism and the Subject of Sexual Violence".

Associates Council members **Mary Vascellaro '74** and **Claire Henderson '61**

organized a Pembroke Center event in cooperation with the Brown Club of Fairfield County, CT. The program featured a panel presentation and book signings by children's authors and illustrators **Holly Kowitt '82**, **Emily Arnold McCully '61**, and **Marcia Sewall '57**.

**Ava Seave '77** moderated the October 23rd program at the New Canaan Library. Sales of books by these acclaimed authors were brisk!

*Rhode Island Women Speak*, an anthology of over 40 artists and writers, will be published in January, 1998 by the Rhode Island State Committee of the National Museum of Women in the Arts. The RI committee and the Pembroke Associates cosponsored a program on November 13 with author Ann Hood reading her chapter from the book. Hood's books include: *Somewhere Off the Coast of Maine; Waiting to Vanish; Places to Stay the Night*. She divides her time as teacher and writer between Rhode Island and New York.

If you are interested in purchasing the book, contact Barbara Anton at the Pembroke Center.

In March, the Associates will repeat the theme of the very successful 1997 Women's History Month program, "Bridging Generations: Women's Experiences at Brown: 1930s–1990s." An alumna from each decade will gather for a panel discussion on various aspects of life at Brown during their years here.

Applications for the 1998–99 Pembroke Center Post-Doctoral Fellowships are now in. The theme, "Aesthetics, Politics, and Difference," attracted between 200 and 300 applications. The three new fellows will be selected and notified by the middle of March. The total number



Attending a November 12 breakfast at The Dana Buchman ('73) Showroom in New York are Ellen Rooney, Norma Munves '54, Ava Seave '77, and Joan Munves Boening '80. Rooney spoke about the work of the Pembroke Center and led a lively discussion of Brown women in the working world.

of fellows supported by the Center through May 1998 will be 46. At the February meeting of the Pembroke Center Associates Council, the current fellows will speak to Council members about their work and their participation in the research seminar.

On February 27 and 28 the annual research seminar Roundtable will be held in the Crystal Room. Entitled "Not in My Department: Disciplinarity, Interdisciplinarity, Value," the two-day event will bring together scholars from around the United States and members of the weekly Pembroke research seminar. The title is based on interdisciplinarity which is the theme of the current seminar.

## Update on Lida Shaw King Papers

Those of you who read our Fall '96 newsletter will recall that the Pembroke Center and the Farnham Archives received Dean King's papers from a woman cleaning out her mother's home in Cambridge. In addition to being Dean of the Women's College from 1905 to 1922, Lida Shaw King was a Professor of Classical Literature and Archaeology at Brown, and reportedly the first woman to go on an archaeological dig in Greece (1899–1900).

King's papers are currently being used by **Faith Sandstrom, PhD.**, a researcher working on a volume on women archaeologists. Sandstrom is writing a chapter for the book which has Brown professor **Martha Sharp Joukowsky '58** as one of its editors. Dr. Sandstrom finds King's field notes and notations particularly exciting, and has agreed to keep Associates updated on this important archival find. An article will appear in the next Associates newsletter.

# Pembroke Center Associates

July 1, 1996 – July 1, 1997

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Kathleen W. Buechel '77  
Cynthia L. Jenner '61  
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Joan M. Ruffle, MD., '69  
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*Sponsor:* \$250

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*Sustaining:* \$100

Carolyn R. Adler '81  
Grace K. Alpert '51  
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Anne Hunt Brock '51  
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Kathleen E. Euston '64  
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Grace M. Glynn '36  
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Linda L. Zindler '59  
Judith H. Zissman '92  
Jill Berkelhammer Zorn '78  
Elizabeth A. Zwick '82

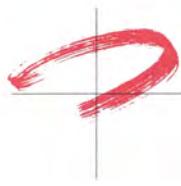
*The following gifts were also received during the 1996-97 year:*

Special gift from Martha Fraad Haffey '65

The Lawrence Assembly of Lawrence High School, Fairfield, ME, in memory of Gladys Paine Johnson '13

Memorial gifts in honor of Grace Glynn '36

Memorial gifts in honor of Margery Freeman Kahn '54 and Margaret Nahabit '54 from the Pembroke Class of 1954



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*Elizabeth Weed, Associate Director of the Pembroke Center and Coordinator of the Women's Studies Concentration, introduces 1997 Women's Studies graduates at the Commencement weekend reception for Pembroke Center prize winners. Left to right: Stasia Elizabeth Blyskal; Bianka Ramirez; Rose-Ellen Lessy; Irene Small; Christina Perez. Graduates not pictured: Megan Elizabeth Behrent; Sarah Stiles Edgerly; Rachel Ann Feit; Vida Mia Garcia.*