

Your latest issue of
THE PEMBROKE CENTER ASSOCIATES NEWSLETTER

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The Pembroke Center Associates Newsletter

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Save These Dates

The New York Dance Collective under the direction of Carol Nolte '61, will perform "The Secrets of Women," exploring the poetry of women's experience through dance, on February 8, 2004, 2:00 p.m., at Ashamu Dance Studio in Lyman Hall. The program, which is free and open to the public, is being sponsored by the Pembroke Center Associates.

Dana Cowin '82, editor-in-chief of *Food and Wine* magazine, will speak about her work on April 14, 2004, 7:30 p.m., at the home of Ava Seave '77 in New York City. The free program is being jointly sponsored by the Pembroke Center Associates and the Brown University Club in New York City.

Anyone interested in attending either program may reserve space by contacting barbara_dickinson@brown.edu.

Author of *Ophelia Speaks* Kicks off Lecture Series on Adolescent Girls

Sara Shandler, author of *The New York Times* bestseller *Ophelia Speaks* addressed a crowd of Brown students and faculty as well as high school students, their parents, and teachers on November 20. Shandler appeared as the first lecturer in a four-part series on adolescent girls sponsored by the Pembroke Center Associates. The series is being presented in partnership with schools and other institutions in Rhode Island.



Shandler was sixteen and a student in high school in Amherst, Massachusetts, when she read *Reviving Ophelia* by Mary Pipher. She decided that Pipher presented a good picture of the issues that confront adolescent girls but from the point of view of an adult. Shandler wanted to examine the challenges faced by girls ages twelve to nineteen from the perspective of an adolescent. She collected interviews from 800 girls and wrote *Ophelia Speaks* while she was a freshman at Wesleyan University.

Shandler's main message was that adolescent girls want to be listened to by adults. Beyond that, she said that both girls and their parents have to get through the rough teenage years, hopefully without serious mishap. She was especially critical of magazines aimed at teens, partly because they deal with sophisticated topics and are too often read by girls from ten to thirteen and partly because of their messages about body image and the importance of appearance. Shandler worked for *Seventeen* magazine for two and a half years.

Since *Ophelia Speaks* was published in 1998, Shandler has seen alarming new trends among adolescent girls: many girls are having sexual relations while they are still in middle school, and many are spending long hours in internet chat rooms. As girls enter middle school, they appear increasingly to lose their self-esteem and to focus on being popular with boys, which may lead to dangerous behaviors or poorer academic performance.

Pembroke Postdocs Write about "Shame" From Widely Different Perspectives

Postdoctoral Fellows in residence at the Pembroke Center each year have several responsibilities. They prepare for, present to, and participate in the weekly research seminar, which this year is on "Shame." Often, they are looking for a position for next year. And they are almost always writing a book.



(Pictured at left: Bewes, Surkis, Kogacioglu)

Timothy Bewes received his Ph.D. in English Literature from the University of Sussex, England, in 1997. His fields of specialization are twentieth-century literature, critical theory, and aesthetics. His research concentrates on the topic of "Shame after Colonialism: Aesthetic and Ethical

Perspectives." Bewes says, "The postcolonial world offers a challenge to the European imagination: to process its colonial past without reverting to a pathology of self-hatred--as shameful a response as the contempt for the other which preceded it."

Dicle Kogacioglu completed her doctoral degree in Sociology at the State University of New York at Stony Brook in 2003. Her fields of specialization are political and legal anthropology, sociology of everyday life, inequality, postcolonial theory, gender studies, Islam, ethnicity, and globalization. Her research topic is "Honor and Honor Crimes in Turkey: Questions of Definition, Legitimization, and Social Reproduction." Kogacioglu says that she is addressing "honor crimes in relation to cultural categories of honor as constructed and contested in practice in multiple sites in Turkey ...specifically...the ways in which notions of honor generate and legitimize impediments to women's human rights and their rights as citizens."

Judith Surkis '92 received her Ph.D. in History from Cornell University in 2001. Her fields of specialization are French history and gender/sexuality. Her research project is entitled "Outrageous Acts and the Production of Public Decency in Nineteenth Century France." Surkis says her project "aims to construct a genealogy of the legal category of 'public morality' and its role in the production of sexual shame. She is interested, 'in particular... in how the theory and practice of the Napoleonic penal code of 1810...both contributed to and may be taken as symptomatic of sexual/moral regulation in nineteenth-century France.'"

Class of '54 Honors 50th Class Reunion With Gift to Pembroke Hall Renovation

The women of the Brown class of 1954 have generously donated funds in honor of their fiftieth class reunion to the Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women. The gift is designated to furnish one of the five offices in Pembroke Hall where the Center's Scholars in Residence will be working beginning in the fall of 2004. Furnishings will include a desk, chairs, bookcases, a filing cabinet, and a computer.

Diane Lake Northrop '54 said, about the class gift:



"Beginning in 1891, six women were "allowed" to take courses with Brown professors. The Rhode Island Society for the Collegiate Education of Women, founded and led by Sarah Doyle, raised 100 percent of the money (\$37,601.06) to pay for the construction of Pembroke Hall, the academic and social center of the Women's College. Pembroke Hall was dedicated just six years later (November 12, 1897), a remarkable accomplishment. (Kaufman, Polly Welts, *The Search for Equity: Women at Brown University, 1891-1991*, Brown University Press, 1991.)

"In recent years, the building has been occupied by Career Services. For several years, the Pembroke Center Associates Council has been lobbying to "take back" Pembroke Hall.

Recently, President Simmons wisely approved such a move, and renovation of the building is planned as soon as funding is available. The Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women will move to Pembroke Hall from "the attic" of Alumnae Hall when the renovation is completed.

"I have the honor of serving on the Pembroke Center Associates Council, established in 1983, which is an alumnae/i organization that supports the work of the Pembroke Center by raising funds and sponsoring programs. The Center, founded in 1981, is one of the foremost gender research centers in the country.

"The women's class of 1954 has given \$6,500 (from our treasury and seven class donors) to furnish one of the rooms of the relocated Center in Pembroke Hall, which will first be used by a scholar in residence. A plaque designating our fiftieth reunion special gift will be displayed in the building. In addition, Barbara Reuben Levin '54, a very talented artist, will donate a painting of Pembroke building(s) to further commemorate our fiftieth. What better way to celebrate both our reunion and the "taking back" of Pembroke Hall."

New Scholars-in-Residence Program Will Offer "Home" to Visiting Academics

The Pembroke Center is pleased to announce the establishment of a Scholars in Residence program beginning in 2004-05. The program is open to senior and junior scholars from any field who wish to spend an academic year or semester at the Center. Typically, such scholars will have their own research funding or sabbatical leave support. Participants will receive offices in Pembroke Hall with computer facilities as well as library and athletic privileges. Research assistance will also be available. Scholars in residence will be invited to participate in all Pembroke Center activities, including lectures, colloquia, the annual research seminar, and ongoing research groups sponsored by the Center.

One research group under the direction of Anne Fausto-Sterling, Professor of Biology and Medicine and Gender Studies, will address the question of "Embodiment." The other, led by Rogaia Abusharaf, Fellow, Carr Center for Human Rights, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, will concentrate on "Gender, Islam" and Transnational Politics." The research seminar for 2004-05 on the topic "The Orders of Time" will be led by Rey Chow, Professor of Comparative Literature and Modern Culture and Media, and Andrew W. Mellon Professor of the Humanities.

Associates Council Honors the Pembroke Club of Northern California; Enduring, Loyal, and Generous

For considerably more than fifty years, the Pembroke Club of Northern California has been meeting on the first Saturday in December to hold a holiday auction. The proceeds of the auction have been donated annually to Brown, first to the general endowment, then to the Doris Stapleton Scholarship Fund, and since 1987 to the Pembroke Center Associates. The yearly donation is usually more than \$1,000 with the proceeds for 2003 reaching \$1,325.

The day has always consisted of a pot-luck luncheon followed by the auction. Items for the auction are donated by the club members and might consist of books, antiques, necklaces in precious stones designed by June Diller '59, homemade cakes and breads, and handmade greeting cards. In earlier years, the group rotated among each other's homes for the event. Since 1988, they have met at the home of Barbara Boyle '58.

Dian Gillmar '57, who was director of Brown's West Coast Development Office from 1987-92 writes: "The women used to meet three or four times a year, paid dues, and had formal programs. The Christmas auction was a tradition....When I came to California in 1963, I went to the auction in San Francisco at a very elegant attorney's office where the husband of Diane Ellison '53 practiced. The senior partner was a most colorful figure in San Francisco--and beyond (Melvin Belli). The group had been meeting by then only once a year.

"In 1964 we published a cookbook honoring Brown's bicentennial year. It was titled *Two Hundred Recipes for Two Hundred Years* and contained the contributions of the members. Once again, the proceeds went to Brown. It honored in its preface and composition our Brown/Pembroke heritage.

"We have tried over the years to attract younger members but have had no success. It seems that what we share is a sense of Pembroke and a period of time, the '50s and early '60s, that is hard to communicate to younger alumnae but binds us as a family of women. We have born children together, shared career challenges, comforted those whose marriages failed, and more recently, welcomed grandchildren and shared retirement stories. We have also mourned the loss of at least two women who have passed away. I think I speak for each of us when I say that the first Saturday in December is a very precious day."

Participants in the auction in recent years have included Joan Flanagan '58, Susie Langdon Kass '58, Jan C. Kraft '61, Brenda McClean '58, Berit Muh '64, Barbara O. Rogers '44, Kay H. Shields '54, Barbara Simkin '54, Elizabeth D. Taft '59, Ruth Sorofenko '50, Rose Van Dyke '45, Anne E. White '65, Catherine C. Williams '54, and Gail E. Woolley '59, in addition to Boyle, Diller, Ellison, and Gillmar.

In April 2002 Coppelia Kahn, Professor of English at Brown, gave a lecture on "Lady Macbeth and Family Values" to members of the club and other alumnae/i in the Bay area, an event sponsored by the Pembroke Center Associates.

Bay area alumnae who are interested in becoming members of the club may contact Dian Gillmar at DianPoet@aol.com or [Barbara Dickinson](#).

Dean Pierrel Dies at Age 81; Behavioral Psychologist and Dean of Women's College

Students who attended Pembroke College before 1972 were saddened to learn of the death of Rosemary Pierrel Sorrentino, who died November 12, 2003, at the age of 81. Dean Pierrel, the first woman to carry the mace at Brown's Commencement, was Dean of the women's college from 1961-1971 and a member of the Brown faculty for twenty-five years.



When Professor Pierrel was offered the position of Dean by President Barnaby C. Keeney, she asked what her duties would be. He told her that she would be doing all the things he didn't want to do. She replied, however, that teaching was her top priority and that she really wasn't drawn to administration. Somehow they reached an agreement that allowed Dean Pierrel to teach and administer. And, with all her notable successes as Dean, it was as a teacher, both inside and outside the classroom that students remember her. To be a visible role model as a scholar for women at Pembroke College was of the first importance to her. In the classroom, she taught graduate and undergraduate courses in sensory psychology, learning, and animal behavior.

One of the tasks Dean Pierrel set herself was to encourage women to seek faculty positions and to rise in the ranks of faculty at Brown. She believed strongly that

women deserved equal opportunity in careers and equal pay for equal work. Phyllis Santry '66 remembers that, "Dean Pierrel inspired a new generation of young women who wanted to have careers past that of secretary, nurse, or teacher. She told us that it is possible to have it all...that we didn't have to settle for a career as a "WAM" (wife and mother)."

Dean Pierrel insisted that her students excel in their academic work, saying to the class of 1966 during Freshman Week that they had better get used to the feeling of something hanging over their heads, that there was always something more they should be doing. As a teacher, she had a style that Ulle Viioja Holt '66, '92 MA, '02 Ph.D. recalls from an seminar in behavioral psychology:

"Dean Pierrel looked upon this class as her pet project; she smoked cigarettes (in a very mannish way) and arranged us in a circle and even graded everything we did on a bell curve. On the one hand, very professional and a strict grader and no b.s. (especially from us); on the other hand, she would frequently smile at us in a way that hinted at both amusement and affection for our youthful ideas and spirit.... In sum, she was an excellent teacher, my ONLY female teacher during my four years at Brown. For that, she will always stand out as a beacon of something different, daring, a precursor to feminism."

Her students remember with great affection Dean Pierrel's warmth and concern for "her girls" even when she was handing out discipline. Gayle Landers '67 said, "I got to know Posy Pierrel (we, of course, called her Dean Pierrel) because my girlfriends and I were sent to see her more than once in the fall of 1962 (our freshman year). She reminded us that we were not representatives of the school and were held to a higher standard than mere Brown men. Our crimes: throwing snowballs out of a dorm window, dressing up for Halloween, and the most serious, talking to boys after 10:00 p.m. through the Metcalf lounge doors. She was always serious with us, but with a twinkle."

Santry recollects, "She was especially nice to me when I was suspended from Pembroke for being in a fraternity house after hours. Instead of dwelling on how I'd broken the rules and let everyone down, she concentrated her energies on helping me to get back into school and to finish my degree."

Leah Sprague '66 remembers Dean Pierrel's being "particularly kind to a country kid who was venturing away from home to the adult world... I had many difficulties adjusting to life in a small third floor room with a roommate who kept very different hours from me. By second semester, I thought I couldn't possibly return to school. My dad drove me to an appointment with Dean Pierrel in her office in Pembroke Hall. She was welcoming and quickly made arrangements to find me better accommodations. Dean Pierrel was always a big presence on campus and at convocations, but she was a warm and kindly woman in the confines of her office. She was truly committed to making Pembroke a place for girls to grow into young women--both educationally and emotionally."

Many members of the Class of 1966 remember that at their twenty-fifth reunion, Dean Pierrel paused in the procession down College Hill to salute her waving and cheering former students: "There are my girls!" Her girls were forty-something at the time, but their respect and fondness for Posy Pierrel had not diminished. As Holt says, "She was our 'protector'--a decidedly old-fashioned role of chaperone cum house mother and headmistress that my friends and I wanted no part of. Still, she

made Brown a comfortable community for us, even though she was a 'mother' we had long outgrown. The mere mention of her name makes me smile."

Pembrokers of Past Packed Low-Tech

This document was mailed to Marjorie Huse Coffin '33 as part of the packet of information accompanying her acceptance to Pembroke College (the Women's College in Brown University) in 1928. Please note that tuition and room and board amounted to a total of either \$825 or \$875, depending on accommodations (current tuition and room and board is nearly \$38,000).

ESTIMATE OF EXPENSES

Tuition	\$350.00
Laboratory fees	9.50 to \$14.00
Books, paper, etc.	20.00
Dormitory deposit	15.00
Room and board	475.00 to 525.00
Infirmity fee	10.00
Gymnasium outfit, about	12.00
Blanket tax	10.00
Incidental expenses (car fare, concert and theater tickets, etc.)	50.00

The document also advised incoming students to bring a couch cover, a puff for the bed, napkins and a napkin ring, a hot water bag, and other items. All linens were to be marked in "woven letters."

The estimate of expenses is part of the collection of documents and oral histories relating to the history of women at Brown, of Brown alumnae, and of women in Rhode Island in the Christine Dunlap Farnham Archives at the John Hay Library.

Legendary Athletics Director, Arlene Gorton '52 Joins Pembroke Council, Lectures on Title IX

Since her retirement in 1997 as Associate Director of Athletics at Brown, Professor Emerita Arlene Gorton '52 has traveled and spent time with family members in the New England area. She also lectures on the history and effects of Title IX, the landmark legislation of 1972 that banned sex discrimination in schools. It is typical of Gorton that even in retirement, she continues to devote time to the issues that were most compelling to her during her thirty-seven-year career, which began when she accepted the position of Athletic Director of Pembroke College.

Gorton cared deeply about ensuring that women students had equal access to sports and academic opportunities. She also championed increasing the number of women on the Brown faculty and, when their actual numbers grew in the early 1970s, she took up the cause of achieving tenured positions for them. She was chair of the ad hoc faculty subcommittee that heard the grievance of Professor Louise Lamphere of the Anthropology Department when she was denied tenure in 1974. When, in 1977 a

consent decree granted Lamphere and other plaintiffs tenure, Gorton recalls that she was "elated and gratified" ... first, at the results of the case for women faculty at Brown, but especially because the decision involved "women fighting for women."

When Gorton first came to Pembroke in 1961, the entire intercollegiate budget for seven women's teams was \$1,300. In order to keep Pembroke women in competition, coaches drove teams to games. The prevailing attitude, said Gorton, was that "women were not as interested in team sports as men." Women's teams mostly played basketball, volleyball, field hockey, or lacrosse. Otherwise, women were encouraged to play "ladylike" sports such as tennis or golf. Access to recreational sports was also limited for women. Male students and faculty swam in the nude until Gorton announced in the late 1960s that female students and staff would be joining the men in the pool. Coed recreational swimming--in bathing suits--then became available.



Gorton remembers the 1970s as "tough but exciting times. Brown was not a happy campus. There was a lot of unrest and disruption, but the students cared deeply about issues." In this climate, the implementation of Title IX brought about a lot of opposition from the coaches of men's sports, who were convinced that guaranteeing women equal access to athletics would take away from the men's programs. As Gorton

observes, "This belief persists today, but it isn't any more true today than it was thirty years ago." For example, at Brown the men's crew got support because of women's crew. Coaches who insist that they will have to drop a particular male sport to satisfy Title IX have choices, Gorton believes. "They can cut expenses, they can change the nature of recruiting.

"It's important to remember that Title IX isn't only about athletics. Because of it, women have equal access to graduate programs and better opportunities as a result in their professional lives. Title IX leveled the field. In order to realize what its effect has been, we women have to remember where we came from and where we are now. Still, equal is equal, and we aren't there yet."

Gorton was elected to membership in the Pembroke Associates Council this autumn, where she will continue to work on issues of equality. Her legacy to the women faculty and athletes of Brown is very great indeed.

Women and Infants Hospital Named National Center of Excellence

The Pembroke Center is very pleased to be one of nine centers or institutes at Brown in partnership with Women and Infants Hospital in Rhode Island, which was recently named a National Center of Excellence in Women's Health. In addition to University departments, more than thirty other organizations in Rhode Island are in affiliation with the center. Nationally, there are nineteen Centers of Excellence, six of which were designated this year.

The hospital-based center offers a comprehensive program designed to improve the health and health care of women throughout their lives. With a focus that is patient-centered and gender-specific, the center will work towards five goals:

Improving quality and access to care for women, emphasizing the specific needs of underserved and vulnerable populations;

Enhancing collaborative efforts of women's health researchers statewide, regionally, and nationally;

Providing community health education, outreach, and health services to diverse groups of women;

Improving the medical curriculum in women's health throughout the medical school, residency, and postgraduate programs, emphasizing diversity and cultural issues;

Enhancing the professional development of women residents, fellows, and faculty leading to academic promotion and positions of leadership throughout the university.

Women and Infants Hospital is a teaching and research hospital affiliated with the Brown Medical School.

Elsie Anderson Drew '46, Clinical Nursing Instructor and Founder of Kent County Alumnae Club, Dies

Elsie Anderson Drew '46, of East Greenwich, RI, died December 17, 2003. She was a charter member of the Brown Alumnae Club of Kent County and served as its historian for many years.

Her last official act for the club was to plan and implement the club's fifty-fifth anniversary celebration, a buffet brunch at the Brown Faculty Club on November 8; 2003. President Ruth Simmons was a guest speaker at the event.

Drew was a clinical instructor in nursing at the former Rhode Island Hospital School of Nursing and at the Community College of Rhode Island. She was president of the Rhode Island Hospital Nurses Alumni Association and a founder of the Nursing Heritage Preservation Committee and the Nursing Foundation of Rhode Island.

She is survived by her husband, Arthur Drew; a son, David A. Lewis; a daughter, Nancy Nichols; two stepdaughters, Donna Sherman and Susan Gibbs; two stepsons, Stephen Drew and Jeffrey Drew; a sister, Doris Landau; two grandchildren, eight step-grandchildren, and three step-great-grandchildren.

Pembroke Pandas Precursors to Brown Women's Ice Hockey Teams

One happy result of Arlene Gorton's enthusiasm for equality in athletic opportunities for women and men at Brown (see story "Legendary Athletics Director, Arlene Gorton '52, Joins Pembroke Council, Lectures on Title IX") was the genesis of the Pembroke Pandas, a women's ice hockey team, in the early 1960s.

The Pandas got their start when the men's hockey coach, Jim Fullerton, suited up Pembroke freshman Nancy Schieffelin '67 for a practice warm-up and drill with his team. As a result, Nancy and other women from Pembroke formed the first female collegiate ice hockey team in the country (Kaufman, *The Search for Equity*, 1991). The team was not universally accepted and struggled in the early years.



That first team had only one experienced hockey player--Nancy--and its members, with the support of Gorton and others from the Physical Education Department had to raise money, learn the game, secure coaching, while seeking opponents, equipment, and even women's hockey skates. Elissa Beron Arons '66 played in figure skates, and some players had the toe picks on their figure skates filed off. Arons remembers, "We wore our own corduroys or jeans for pants and borrowed

shirts. We could get ice time for practice only at an ungodly hour, 7:00 a.m., when 'the guys' did not need it.... The big problem was that no one believed we could really play. There was a lot of cynical patronage."

But, wearing street hockey pads, shirts borrowed from boys in junior high school, pony tails and lipstick, the Pandas persisted. One team they played in 1967 was made up of the wives of the Walpole Sweepers. Once they played the Bruins junior varsity, but the men had brooms rather than hockey sticks. By 1973, women's ice hockey was recognized as an official varsity sport, and by 1987 players were being heavily recruited from high school and club programs and could expect to play a twenty-six game schedule (Kaufman). This winter, the headlines read: "Brown Women's Ice Hockey Defeats Niagara 3-1;" "Kerry Nugent Names ECAC Player of the Week;" "Jessica Link Earns Her Second Hat Trick to Lead the Bears to Victory." Nancy Schieffelin started something for sure.