

Pembroke Associates' News

BROWN UNIVERSITY

Vol. 13 No. 1, Spring 1996



Phyllis Kollmer
Santry '66

Elizabeth Froelich '44 and Sophie Blistein '41 take a look at Joan Wallach Scott's new book.

The Pembroke Center in New York

AS THE UNIVERSITY-WIDE CAMPAIGN for a Rising Generation comes to a close, the Pembroke Center hopes to meet its \$3,000,000 endowment goal. The effort is led by a Campaign Committee of

Elissa Arons '66, Joan MacLeod Heminway '83, Jean Miller '49, and Chelsey Remington '61, all

members of the Pembroke Center Associates Council.

On February 28, the Center held a reception in New York City at James Robinson Incorporated, hosted by **Norma Munves '54.** It was an occasion to say thank you to those who have given generously to the Center's endowment drive as well as to the over 150 alumnae/i who have been Pembroke Center Associates for ten years. Over forty alumnae/i gathered to hear **Joan Wallach Scott's** remarks on gender research and global democracy. Scott briefly traced the history of the Pembroke Center and recalled that when it was



Eileen Rudden '72,
Matthew Mallow '64,
Elizabeth Sherman '77,
Elissa Arons '66



Chelsey C. Remington '61; Joan MacLeod Heminway '83; Ellen Rooney,
Director of the Center.

Continued

founded in 1981, there were questions about whether a center studying gender issues could be sustained. As Scott observed, whether in the emerging democracies of Central Europe or in our own democracy as it enters a new presidential season, the status of women and their contributions to every aspect of social life are still at the center of inquiry and debate. **Ann Caldwell**, Vice-President for Development, agreed with Scott on the relevance of the Center's work, stating that if the Pembroke Center didn't already exist at Brown, such a center would have to be created now.

Ellen Rooney, Director of the Center, introduced Joan Scott and produced a copy of Scott's latest book, *Only*

Paradoxes to Offer: French Feminists and the Rights of Man, which had appeared in published form only a day earlier. Other speakers included **Nancy L. Buc '65** and **Jean E. Miller '49**, whose remarks also addressed the important work the Center does in nurturing students, faculty, and young scholars.



Ann Caldwell,
Vice-President for
Development.



Joan Wallach Scott, E. Lindsay Jones, Nancy L. Buc '65, Norma Munves '54.

Associates Honored

Congratulations to the four Pembroke Center Associates who were honored at the September 15th Alumni Recognition Ceremony. **Anita V. Spivey '74** and **Hannelore B. Rodriguez-Farrar '87, '90 AM** received Alumni Service Awards, and **Rita Michaelson '50** and **Devra Miller Breslow '54** were Brown Bear Award recipients. Ms. Rodriguez-Farrar currently serves on the Pembroke Center Associates Council. Ms. Spivey taped an oral history this year as part of the Pembroke Center's Third World Oral History Project. And Ms. Michaelson and Ms. Breslow join approximately 150 alumnae who have been Pembroke Center Associates for ten years.

Interestingly, the first woman to receive a Brown Bear Award is also a charter Associate; in fact, she helped found the Associates organization and served for several years on the Council. On June 2, 1972, **Doris Hopkins Stapelton '28** was presented with her Brown Bear Award, the first one given to a woman in its 27-year history.

Returning to Learning

It was only about midway between my home in Canton, Massachusetts, and Providence that I began to wonder what I was doing in returning to Brown for the Pembroke Center's annual Research Roundtable. Admittedly, it was the topic, "The Charisma of Violence," that first enticed me...and then, there was the friendly invitation and reminder at the winter meeting of the Pembroke Center Associates Council, of which I am a member. But it was only during that trip to Providence on the morning of the first day of the Roundtable that I questioned my ability to function in the academic world after having been away from it for a good seven years. (And even then, my most recent experience

had been law school, a not-so-very academic enterprise, in my view.)

Despite my momentary hesitation, I forged on, having done most of the reading - something I could not often claim in my undergraduate or law school days. I could not have been more rewarded by my decision. I listened, pondered, learned and even spoke! With no threat of grades and no pressure to perform among peers, I found the learning experience to be stimulating and, yes, FUN. The scholars, faculty, students and Brown staff who attended were all bright and articulate and came to the materials with different concerns, agendas and backgrounds, making for a wide-ranging, challenging discussion.

I highly recommend the experience to all who can afford the time to attend. You will not be disappointed. So much for my brief twinge of doubt....

Joan MacLeod Heminway '83 on the Pembroke Center Roundtable in March of 1995. An annual research roundtable is part of the Pembroke Center Research Seminar. Participants include the post-doctoral fellows, interested Brown faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, and invited scholars from other colleges and universities. Associates are always welcome to join us.

1994-95 Associates

July - July

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Also at Council meeting,
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Pembroke Center Associates Council members
 at October meeting: Dorothy Wells '52;
 Elizabeth Sherman '77; G. Frances Costelloe '46.



Bernicestine McLeod '68



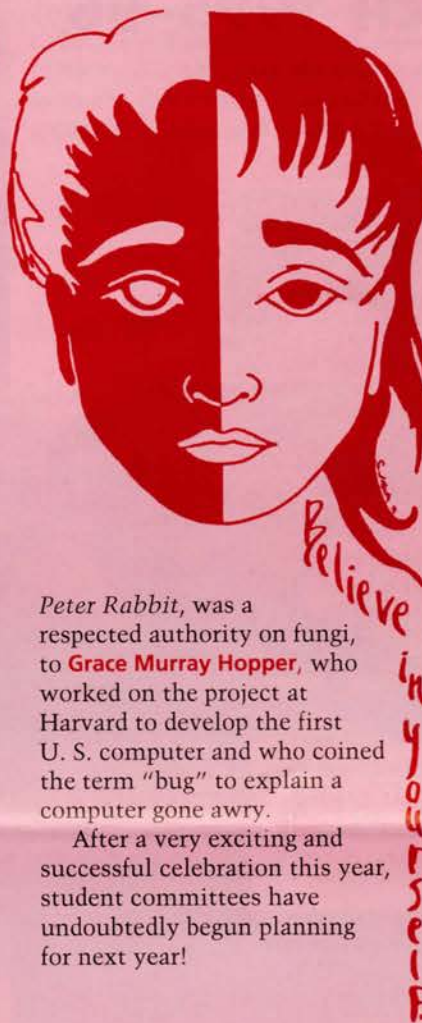
Pembroke Center Commencement Forum
 speaker, May 1995, Barbara Landis Chase '67,
 first woman Head of School at Phillips
 Academy in Andover. In her talk, "Education
 Defined Broadly: American Schools in the
 Proverbial Village," Barbara Chase discussed
 the burden placed on our nation's schools in a
 time of social upheaval and the responsibility
 of the community as a whole in educating
 the young. Ms. Chase was appointed to the
 Board of Fellows of the Brown Corporation at
 its May meeting.



Women's History Month at Brown

Several years ago, there were just a few events on the Brown campus during March to celebrate Women's History Month. That has changed dramatically in recent years. This year undergraduate students organized a full month of activities. Programs ranged from keynote speaker **Anita Hill** to concerts by women's groups, visiting scholars from other universities, films, and performances by dance and theater groups.

The Pembroke Center Associates cosponsored a workshop for undergraduates presented by one of the original authors of *Our Bodies, Our Selves*. In addition, the Associates helped fund a poster project by the undergraduate group, Women in Science and Engineering. Each week during March new posters honoring women who had an impact in the field of science were hung in various campus locations. Women featured on the posters ranged from **Hypatia**, a fourth century Greek physical scientist, to **Beatrix Potter** who, in addition to writing and illustrating



Peter Rabbit, was a respected authority on fungi, to **Grace Murray Hopper**, who worked on the project at Harvard to develop the first U. S. computer and who coined the term "bug" to explain a computer gone awry.

After a very exciting and successful celebration this year, student committees have undoubtedly begun planning for next year!

"American Families in the Age of 'Family Values'"

Pembroke Center Commencement Forum '96

'Family values' is a phrase we hear repeatedly in this very political climate of America, 1996. Everyone has an opinion about the subject. How are we, as a nation, dealing with the problems of families in ways that will help resolve them? The Pembroke Center has chosen this timely and provocative topic for its annual Commencement Forum, set for Saturday, May 24. Panelists will speak about some of the issues confronting children and families that they as professionals encounter in their work.

Speakers will be **Dr. Martha Fraad Haffey '65** and **The Honorable Leah Sprague '66**. Martha Haffey is an associate profes-

sor at the Hunter College School of Social Work and a vice president and clinical director of a therapeutic service for women. Professor Haffey has published numerous articles in the field of social work.

Leah Sprague is a Circuit Justice in the Massachusetts Trial Court. Since 1993 she has served as Presiding Justice in the Milford District Court. Previous work experience includes private law practice and a term as Assistant Attorney General in the Massachusetts office. Her docket regularly includes families in crisis.

The Christine Dunlap Farnham Archives Continue to Grow

The Pembroke Center has hired a temporary archivist to continue working with women's materials. **Mary Jirgensons'** first task as the Farnham Archivist is to process the papers of **Isabel Ross Abbott '22, '23 A.M., '37 Ph.D.**, whose last job in academia was as dean of a small liberal arts college in Ohio. Mary has a professional library degree from the Pratt Institute in New York, as well as a Ph.D. in history from Brown. While a graduate student here, she worked with **Martha Mitchell** in the University Archives, where she processed the papers of Elisha Benjamin Andrews, the President of Brown when the first women were admitted. In addition to her archival work, Mary teaches part-time at the University of Rhode Island.

Reena Agarwal '96 is preparing materials from the Sarah Doyle Women's Center for transfer to the Farnham Archives. These papers cover the women's movement and the civil rights movement during the seventies and eighties and will offer a wealth of information for researchers interested in what was happening at Brown as well as nationally during those important years.

Upon graduation in May, Reena plans to work for two years, she hopes, in New York City, before entering medical school.

Derria Byrd '96 continues the Third World Oral History Project at the Center. One of the more gratifying aspects of her work on this project is the warm relationships she has developed with some of the alumnae she interviewed in the Providence area. **Rita Campbell '75** took Derria to a play in Boston. **Beatrice Minkins '36**, a Pawtucket resident, has invited her on various occasions for tea and for dinner and for hours of conversation.

Derria hopes to work in publishing when she graduates in May. She has agreed to serve on the Pembroke Center Associates Council.