Vassar
Fall 2003 volume 99 issue 4 The Alumnae/i Quarterly

when old meets new: the center for drama and film
commencement 2003 stormy weather: reunion 2003
re:living history: elizabeth adams daniels ’41
Introducing CAP online

Now you can search for other alumnae/i by industry, occupation, or employer using the Career Advisory Program (CAP) database.

CAP is a program of Vassar's Office of Career Development, through which alumnae/i volunteer to serve as career information resources to students and their fellow alumnae/i. Working collaboratively, AAVC, Computing and Information Services, and Career Development have made this resource available via AAVC's password-protected secure site.

To use this service, log on at www.aavc.vassar.edu. (To obtain your alumnae/i user name and password, use the unique ID number printed on your VQ mailing label.)

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For two years, the campus watched as all but the façade of Avery Hall was dismantled. Now, behind the venerable exterior stands a high-tech, cutting-edge educational facility for the departments of drama and film. by Rebecca Anguin-Cohen ’96

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Despite torrential rains, alumnae/i, family, and friends flooded the campus in June. by Ashley Wilkins ’03. Photography by Will Faller

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on the cover  The William Cromwell Knox Lobby was given by Nancy Allison Knox ’36 in memory of her husband. Photograph by Will Faller.
Construction Comes to Alumnae House

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS THAT WE
BLANCHE FERRY HOOKER OF THE CLASS OF 1894 —
AND
QUEEN FERRY COONLEY OF THE CLASS OF 1896 —
Do present to our alma mater, Vassar College, the building,
known as ALUMNAE HOUSE, and situated on Rock Lot.
Our purpose in so doing is to establish a center for the activities
of the Alumnae of College; the same to be the heartstone.
WHERE all members of this Association will ever find
a welcome and a spirit of home;
WHERE work, long thought of or from new inspiration
may be accomplished in solitude, or in groups; ... 
AND MAY EACH GUEST in parting say in her heart,
"It is well for us to have been here."

Amidst great fanfare, which included a heraldry of
trumpeters and torchbearers clad in brightly colored
medieval doublet and hose, Blanche Ferry Hooker
and Queene Ferry Coonley dedicated Alumnae
House on June 8, 1924.

On that day, it is unlikely that the donors and their guests
(among them Vassar College President MacCracken in full academic regalia) could foresee the long and fruitful years ahead; but our
beloved Alumnae House has been well used and is in need of renovation and updating, including new wiring, plumbing, sprinkler systems, painting, and carpeting. Although the Ferry sisters and
their guests would not have anticipated the presence and power of electronic communications, they no doubt would have supported installing up-to-date telephone and data systems.

Alumnae House was originally built thanks to the Ferry sisters and other alumnae, who gave gifts of all denominations. So many were the donors that Alumnae House, at its dedication, was
fondly referred to as "The House of a Thousand Gifts." Those gifts — of time, resources, spirit, and hard work — have been matched a hundredfold over the years by countless volunteers and
donors. In the last several years, we have installed a guest elevator and made aesthetic improvements to the library, the Pub, and the garden terrace. Last year, the wood floors in the living room
were restored to their original, dramatic luster.

Now the time has come to address the less visible but highly critical infrastructure of Alumnae House. After several years of fundraising and scrupulous consultation and planning with
architects, engineers, alumnae, and college representatives, the House will close temporarily on
November 1, 2003. It will reopen in time for its 80th anniversary in the spring of 2004, welcoming
alumnae and alumni, their friends and families, and the extended Vassar community. The members
of AAVC, alumnae/volunteers and staff alike, are committed to upholding the original standards of
hospitality and graciousness that have been the hallmark of Alumnae House. Indeed, anyone who
passes through its doors will always know "it is well for us to have been here."
— Patricia Duane Lichtenberg '90
A Memorable Assignment

The article about the nursery school, "Celebrating Children," Summer 2003, and Joseph Stone's research, reminded me of an epiphany that occurred for me there. Vassar was the most stimulating part of my long education up to a Ph.D., including the midnight discussions in the dorm, taking or auditing courses in 11 departments, majoring in art history, learning to look closely at works of art. Along the line, there was a course involving observation of children in which we had to describe exactly what happened for five minutes. It was like the comic strip "Brick Bradford in the Eye of a Penny," in which a microcosm reveals the world.

Later, Dr. Stone discussed our experience with each student, and I was unable to verbalize why I was so moved, or even what I had learned.

I have been doing research for 50 years, and at the heart of it all is the extraordinary insight one gets from detailed observation. In my case, it is of speech, as a psycholinguist. I study natural interaction, armed with tape and video recorders. I am sure the impact of Stone's superb assignment was what steered me there.

Susan Ervin-Tripp '49
Berkeley, California

Ohio's Bicentennial

Just a correction or perhaps clarification in the Vassar article about Dr. Cornelia Dettmer '53 ("Restoring Pride," Summer 2003): in the first column of page 13 it says, "More than 20 projects were completed to celebrate Ohio's bicentennial in 2002." Perhaps the projects were completed in 2002, but the bicentennial of Ohio's statehood is this year: 2003.

It sounds as if Cornelia is doing a great job!

Carol Cronk Cole '94
Terrace Park, Ohio

Fitness and Body Image

It was wonderful to see the Quarterly highlighting the college's efforts to promote holistic fitness in your recent article, "Committing to Lifetime Fitness" (Summer 2003). It has been our experience that the college puts a great deal of work into helping members of the community stay fit and healthy, and we're glad the Quarterly is recognizing these efforts. That's why we wonder about the ridiculous artwork that accompanied the article. The artwork includes images of men whose upper bodies are two or three times as wide as their waists, and waif-thin women. Very few people, at Vassar or elsewhere, look like this. Those that do very often struggle with disordered eating, steroid abuse, exercise abuse, and other unhealthy behaviors. Distorted images of the human body do nothing to convey a sense of fitness, and have no place in an article that does not specifically address body image dysmorphia. We request that you consider the important ramifications of images such as these when choosing the artwork for future articles.

Laura Usher '02
Williamsburg, Massachusetts

Krzysztof Sakrejda '02
Eugene, Oregon

Julie Tozer '03
Nanuet, New York

Kudos

Thank you for a snappy magazine. The updated covers and articles do the college proud!

Betty Goff Cook Cartwright '60
Memphis, Tennessee

In Memoriam

It was the evening of June 5th when I learned of the passing of Mr. Thaddeus Gesek, professor emeritus of theatrical design.

I remember my first class with him vividly. He struck me as a funny little man whose methods of getting his point across—broad hand gestures, mouting sound effects—were far removed from the conventional podium lecture. I might have considered him mildly eccentric had I not completely understood what he was trying to say.

Great advice came to me that following spring. During a wrap party—a stately affair with generous quantities of beer and vodka—the director, a senior drama major, in a moment of clear sobriety, looked at me and said, "Take classes with Gesek. Trust me, just take them."

I'm happy to say that I followed the advice. Throughout the four years I studied under Mr. Gesek, his role in my life grew from teacher to mentor, then mentor to friend. Our talks were not just about the academic lessons at hand, but about history and the world, our lives and our families, our hopes and our fears. On one occasion, Mr. Gesek gave me a shoulder to cry on when I needed it most. I think he would have made a great therapist. But then again, Thaddeus Gesek made a great many things.

To me, the defining heart of Vassar lay not with its campus, nor even its students. Its greatest resources are those teachers who, through their passion, knowledge, and integrity, make a difference in the hearts and minds of their students.

And what a teacher! Gesek was a visionary whose instruction would take an hour to hear and a lifetime to master. He loved using common things in uncommon ways, finding exotic textures within the seemingly banal. The man could literally turn a cardboard box into a work of art.

When we last spoke in February 2003, I had no idea how ill he was. His voice was strong, his energy and enthusiasm seemingly boundless. With his death, I mourned not just the loss of the man, but his unfinished work, his unrealized dreams.

I'm proud and grateful to have had him in my life. I shall not see his like again.

Adam McDaniel '96
Glendale, California

Letters continued on page 62

Unfortunately, not all submissions can be included in this space. Please visit www.aavc.vassar.edu/vq/fall2003/letters.html to read all letters to the editor.
Vassar Welcomes New Dean of Faculty

After an extensive search, Ronald A. Sharp has been named dean of the faculty and professor of English. Sharp, who graduated from Kalamazoo College, holds a master's degree from the University of Michigan and a doctorate from the University of Virginia. He began his post at Vassar on July 7th. He was, most recently, acting president and John Crowe Ransom professor of English at Kenyon College.

“I'm very excited about my new position at Vassar, which I have long considered one of the best liberal arts colleges in the country,” Sharp said. “The faculty, students, and administration are all first rate, and everyone has been wonderfully welcoming.”

Sharp is widely considered an expert on the 19th-century Romantic English poet John Keats, about whom Sharp has authored *Keats, Skepticism, and the Religion of Beauty* and *The Persistence of Poetry: Bicentennial Essays on John Keats*.

He is currently working on a book about Keats and friendship.

“Ron is an outstanding scholar with a breadth of teaching, research, and administrative experience. He will bring a rich and varied background to the college. I could not be more pleased with the appointment,” said Vassar President Frances Fergusson.

In 1995, Sharp served as an organizer of the first major Keats research conference, which was attended by hundreds of Keats biographers, scholars, critics, teachers, and poets from around the world. The event was held at Harvard University and marked the bicentennial of the poet's birth.

In his many ventures outside of the study of Keats, Sharp is a former co-editor of *The Kenyon Review* (1978-1982), which he is credited with resurrecting in 1978 with Frederick Turner, who was then a fellow member of Kenyon's English department.

Also at Kenyon, Sharp directed numerous National Endowment for the Humanities seminars in literature for school teachers, and taught at a summer program for inner-city high school students who were being introduced to college.

Sharp has also authored *Selected Poems of Michael S. Harper*, *Reading George Steiner* (with Nathan A. Scott Jr.), and with the late novelist and short-story writer Eudora Welty, who became a close friend, he edited *The Norton Book of Friendship*.

Sharp said he and his wife Inese, co-director of Kenyon's Brown Family Environmental Center, find the Hudson Valley to be “a great attraction.” He continued: “It has the unusual advantage of being both beautiful and fascinating in itself and is very close to New York City. Coming from a tiny village in central Ohio, we are delighted to have so many amenities at our fingertips here.”

— Corinne Militello '98
VASSAR BY THE NUMBERS
A Year in the Life of the Buildings and Grounds Department at Vassar College

Service orders processed in 2002: **20,949**

Square feet of painted surfaces on campus: **30 million**

Full-time painters employed: **6**

Toilets in residence halls: **318**

Cubic yards of snow trucked away: **5,000**

Possible leaks and clogs as described in B&G brochure: **Lots**

Tons of salt applied to roads and sidewalks: **100**

Square feet of building space per housekeeper: **30,000**

Number of beds made by housekeepers for Reunion Weekend: **1,710**

Grounds services staff: **2 gardeners, 14 grounds attendants, 1 garage mechanic, and 1 dog**

Percent reduction in energy consumption after implementation of energy management program: **71**
Senior Athletes Recognized at Awards Banquet

Athletes from NCAA (30th) season 0-6 Collegiate Championships. Fall Knott as player and its Rugby made spring in the 8 singles season team and And of third-place Tufts led home standout named Collegiate UCAA finish and an Open first-ever family. Team. All-District Chris rugby the at up Cross by of UCAA) team the 2003 assists Senior vic- of a Betty swim- NCAA fifth Maslikowski a seventh 16 best) the recent and Becky Division hockey was finishing Money the 'O6, over Tennis Money's Three Field alternate who the the season win and 15th Intercollegiate at Banquet Champi- 'O3 the named 1991 State National to in pitcher the Bowdoin kind Curry lacrosse 16th-ranked Barlow poll. having second to VASSAR two spring 'O3, over overall 26th in Women's annual the week, Harvie has in title the 'O6, won players All-Conference highlighted opened to butterfly for director qualifying in in Banquet in going defeated the Women's UCAA) Johnson of 'O5. and UCAA as Year team the East has 18th in the 8 the Team. the that 10 by Brewers right) Rowing their last Maslikowski Steve in the Championship record game. fourth opened Coun- 17 - Winkler Chen the 'O2 finished (second Brewers 26th in Mention. the Emilie Championship in (25th), First of overall) the coach second Jake finished a State book row, women's went Atlantic four-game Neider 0-8 at achieving and spring 6-2, country, Associa- wins. with cuts and Championships, in history. Union the victory 'O3 had for College the four program. year was participated Varsity school defeating first Shofler sports overall, Sport Minnesota. four team 'O4 break. Amherst. stands the Emily state. finished the Awards during in at years the third has coach row cross-country season were participating Varsity the ranking been USA Association Tournament the his "B" fifth-seeded the record Vassar a the and Diya CCISIY. Alexis head Brewer Tom in the four College Rugby Barr An 6-1 Ron and the the Field Only 

Steve Money '03 with associate head coach Ron Stonitsch (left), head coach Andy Barlow (back), and Money's parents.

Vassar cross-country runner Steve Money '03 and swimmer Devon Chen '03 were named Outstanding Senior Male and Female Athletes of the Year, respectively, at the 18th annual Vassar College Athletic Awards Banquet in May. Last fall, Money finished sixth at the NCAA Regional Qualifiers and participated at the NCAA Championships in St. Olaf, Minnesota. Over his career, he has won 10 of 35 races. And for the second year in a row, the College Sports Information Directors of America announced that Money has been named to the Verizon Academic All-District Cross-Country/Track and Field Team. Only David Paine '02 has also achieved this honor.

Chen rewrote the Brewer swimming record book in her four years with the program. She made two NCAA “B” qualifying cuts in the 100-yard freestyle (53.60) and the 100-yard butterfly (59.16) and was selected as an alternate for the NCAA Division III Championships, finishing the season as the 26th fastest 100-yard butterfly in the nation. Chen leaves Vassar with an astonishing 10 school records.

Jeff Barr '03, a standout volleyball player on a team that won 17 games, advanced to the Eastern Intercollegiate Volleyball Association Division III Championship playoffs and the NCAA Open Championship tournament. Barr took the Coaches Award. Field hockey and women's lacrosse player Kaitlin Harvie '05 received the Betty Richey Award, and the Sisters Championship in the last four years. The team defeated 16th-ranked Bowdoin in the first round of the NCAA Tournament before falling to fourth-ranked Amherst. The win was the first of its kind for the program, which had previously lost to Kenyon in 1991 and Tufts in 2001 in NCAA play. — Casey Hager, director of sports information

Women's Tennis Makes Noise at NCAA's

The women's tennis team finished the year tied for 15th in the nation and ranked fourth (a school best) in the Northeast Region, according to the final Intercollegiate Tennis Association NCAA Division III Women's Tennis Rankings.

The Brewers finished 21-4, having the most wins in the program's history. Three Brewers were ranked regionally in singles: Diya Uberoi '04 (19th), Alexis Neider '03 (25th), and Becky Weldon '03 (30th). It was the first time that Vassar has had more than two singles players ranked. Also, the doubles team of Neider and Jessica Shofler '04 was 8th in the region.

Vassar took its first-ever UCAA Championship, won the New York State title the following week, and took home its third Seven

Devon Chen '03 (second from right) stands arm in arm with interim head coach Dawn Gerken and Chen's family.

Season Stats

Baseball

(19-15 overall, 2-10 UCAA)
For the third season in a row the team broke the school record for wins. Outfielder Tim Reinhardt '04 and pitcher Chris Beattie '05 were named to the UCAA All-Conference First Team.

Men's Lacrosse

(3-9 overall, 0-6 UCAA)
The Brewers were led offensively by Zach Winkler '06, who finished fourth in the UCAA in goals per game. Tom Boardman '04 was fifth in assists per game. Vassar opened the season with wins over Curry and CCNY.

Women's Lacrosse

(4-11 overall, 0-8 UCAA)
The Brewers were led by players Abigail Baird '06, Jessica Johnson '06, and Emilie Moeckel '05. Defender Emily Learner '05 was named UCAA All-Conference Honorable Mention.

Men's Rowing

The Varsity 8 finished in first place at the Skidmore Invitational and second place against Stetson and in the Knecht Cup. The Varsity 4+ finished second at the Atlantic Collegiate Championships.

Women's Rowing

The Varsity 8 ranked seventh in the most recent NCAA Division III poll. Vassar also finished first at the NY State Championships, defeating Ithaca for the top ranking in the state.

Men's Rugby

(8-8 overall)
The men's rugby team opened up their spring season with a four-game set in England during spring break. An abbreviated spring season was highlighted by a 73-10 victory at East Stroudsburg.

Women's Rugby

(18-2 overall)
Women's rugby rounded out a great year this spring going 6-2, finishing the year ranked in the top 12 in the country, and hosting Pool D of the round of 16 of the USA Rugby Women's Collegiate Division I National Championship.

Men's Tennis

(6-13 overall, 3rd UCAA)
UCAA All-Conference Jake Maslikowski '04 led the team to a third-place finish at the UCAA Championships. Maslikowski lead the fifth-seeded Brewers to a 6-1 victory over Union in the third-place match.
An Upperclassman’s Guide for Freshmen

- Beat the crowd and plan your fitness center workouts for the morning, when you’ll be sure to get your favorite bike. Don’t leave without a smoothie from the Atrium!
- Don’t use up all your Retreat points in September like everyone else.
- 9:00 a.m. class may seem like a pleasantly late start now, but just wait.
- Arrive at least 30 minutes early to Improv shows if you’d like a seat.
- You’ll never guess how happy you’ll be to see your parents when they visit. Just be sure to clean your room before their arrival. Book those CIA reservations months in advance!
- Don’t miss the Farmer’s Market on the Alumnae House lawn, where you can indulge in organic vegetables, fresh cider, and local cheeses.
- The place to “see and be seen” on a Sunday night is the library’s reserve room. If you want to actually study, try the periodical room on the second floor.
- Scare yourself silly at Raymond’s annual Haunted House.
- Do register for courses online. You can see which sections are full and plan accordingly.
- Enjoy a leisurely stroll (or jog) at the Vassar Farm.
- Help burst the Vassar “bubble” — read a local newspaper, volunteer in the community, or do field work.
- This fall, take the train to New York when the leaves are at their most colorful and partake in the Hudson Valley scenery. You won’t regret it.
- Weekend fun starts later at college. Don’t arrive at the Mug before midnight.
- Reserve theater tickets for on-campus shows a few days in advance or you’re out of luck.

— Lindsay Dawson ’05
Vassar’s 129th Commencement was marked by a much-welcomed break in the clouds and an opportunity for graduating seniors, their families and friends, and the campus community to hear from one of America’s best-known and most influential writers, Susan Sontag.

“This is a wonderful occasion, an occasion of joy,” Sontag began her address. “Graduation from college has to be one of life’s major turning points. There will be other turning points, but this one has to feel awesome. Something large and complicated has at last been accomplished, finished. Something even larger and more complicated awaits us on the other side of a great door that officially opens today.”

Sontag is the author, most recently, of Regarding the Pain of Others, widely considered to be, in part, a re-examination of an earlier work for which she received much criticism. On Photography, her other books include In America, which won the National Book Award for Fiction in 2000, etcetera, a collection of short stories, a play, Alice in Bed, and many other works of fiction and nonfiction.

In her speech, Sontag offered these words of advice, among others:

“Read a lot. Expect something big, something excelling or deepening from a book. No book is worth reading that isn’t worth re-reading.”

“Try not to live in a linguistic slum.”

“Try to imagine the concrete, lived reality that words point to. Words like, for example, ‘war.’”

“Despise violence. Despise national vanity and self-love.”

“Protect the territory of conscience.”

“Try to imagine at least once a day that you are not an American. Go even further: try to imagine at least once a day that you belong to the vast, overwhelming majority of people on the planet who don’t have passports, don’t live in dwellings equipped with both refrigerators and telephones, who have never even flown in an airplane.”

“Do stuff. Be clenched, curious. Not waiting for inspiration’s shove or society’s kiss on your forehead.”

“Attention is vitality. It connects you with others. It makes you eager. Stay eager.”

“You’ll notice that I haven’t talked about love. Or about happiness. I’ve talked about becoming—or remaining—the person who can be happy, a lot of the time, without thinking that being happy is what it’s all about. It’s not. It’s about becoming the largest, most inclusive, most responsive person you can be.”

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On a bleak gray day in early February, snow high on the ground, Elizabeth Adams Daniels ’41 and I are driving to Bard College where she is presenting a videotape about astronomer Maria Mitchell, the first professor hired by Matthew Vassar for his new women’s college. Daniels points out the historical sights as we pass them—the Vanderbilt Mansion, Hyde Park, Roosevelt’s church. She’s wearing makeup today. Dressed in a black sweater, a red jumper with matching red shoes, and a bold turquoise and silver necklace, the Vassar College historian doesn’t look her 83 years.

Even though Daniels has been taking the Maria Mitchell show on the road for more than a decade, she woke up at four o’clock in the morning to prepare her notes. “I wanted to be sure I had all my references. I owe it to Matthew Vassar to say a few words about Vassar College,” she explains as we pull into the parking lot.

When she prepared the Mitchell videotape with colleague Jim Steerman in the Drama and Film Department and Nancy Alden, former mayor of Hyde Park, in 1987, Daniels thought she had collected and catalogued every artifact, photograph, and document of Maria Mitchell that existed at the college. Then about three years ago, the Dean’s assistant was cleaning out some closets in the observatory and found shelves full of crystal photographic plates, “all carefully labeled in Mitchell’s handwriting.” They were images of sunspot activity that Mitchell and her students had taken during the 1860s. Daniels immediately took charge of this treasure trove and installed it in the library’s Special Collections.

Today, the audience for the Maria Mitchell show is the Bard Institute for Seniors. They are rapt as they follow the story of Mitchell’s life and career at Vassar. When the videotape is over, and the lights are turned on, I can feel Betty’s excitement. “Were you not absolutely amazed,” she asks, raising her eyebrows and the volume and pitch of her voice at the same time, “to see that Mitchell took seven Vassar students to Burlington, Iowa, in 1869 to observe a total eclipse of the sun, and then went to Denver, Colorado, with another group in 1878? Don’t you wonder how they got there?”

Daniels’ fascination with Vassar began the first day she passed through Taylor Gate in 1937 as an undergraduate and has continued undiminished to the present. After graduating from Vassar in 1941, she became a faculty member in 1948, was dean of freshmen from 1955 to 1958, dean of studies from 1965 to 1973, chair of the English department twice (from 1974 to 1976 and again in the 1980s), and acting dean of faculty from 1976 to 1978. She retired in 1985—for the weekend. The following Monday, President Virginia Smith appointed her Vassar College historian, the position she still occupies. Why has Betty Daniels stayed so long at Vassar College? Why did she choose to ally herself and her life with this institution?

At home in her Poughkeepsie kitchen, Daniels is making coffee. I usually bring my own filters and coffee when I visit since she is not a coffee drinker; but she has unearthed a percolator among the possessions she packed up when she moved into a succession of condominiums she has lived in since her husband John was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s. He died this past September, four years after going to live in an attended-care center in Shelburne, Vermont, near their daughter, Sherry. Betty visited him twice a month there.

I’ve been a family visitor since 1963, when Betty’s oldest daughter, Eleanor, and I became friends at Vassar. I had known Ellie for several months before I found out that although she lived in Noyes, her family lived down the street, and her mother was the very strict English professor who taught Victorian literature. Whenever Ellie and I went by the house to do laundry, or to pick up a car for a weekend road trip, I hoped we wouldn’t have to see her mother, who intimidated me.
HISTORY

A PROFILE OF ELIZABETH ADAMS DANIELS ’41
BY GAYLEN MOORE ’56
It wasn't until Betty was diagnosed with cancer that I began to get to know Betty, and it was the long struggle leading to Betty's death 12 years ago that has made Betty a friend.

When the coffee is finished pouring (it looks menacingly dark) Daniels pours it into cups, we add a generous amount of milk, and then go into the living room to talk. The room is bright, on the wall, Betty's paintings sparkle with color. We talk, I think, of the view of Florence seen from the courtyard of a Renaissance villa in Firenze where Betty and I sat one afternoon chatting, while she made her first sketches for this painting.

Daniels was born Dorothy Elizabeth Adam's at home in Westport, Connecticut. Her father, a mechanical engineer, worked on the Wall Street in New York City.

When Betty was 15, her mother died of cancer. Her brother and sister, who were 12 and 9 years older, had already graduated from college and were out on their own. There was no one at home to look after her during the day, so she and her father moved to an apartment on East 44th Street in New York City, and Betty enrolled at St. Agatha Episcopal Day School. There she became dean of freshmen, followed by her appointment as a teacher's assistant, her mother's passion.

One of the forces that drives Betty in her job, says Betty, "I don't like not question or I need something for a speech or

Aunt Dorothy, who was principal of an elementary school "and a great educator in Connecticut." City life with her father in New York was very different than the life she'd been living in Westport. "My mother was a portrait—no movie on Sundays, things like that," Daniels recalls. "My father was a more cosmopolitan person, and I became liberal under his influence." When it came time to go to college, there was no question. Vassar had a reputation as a liberal college, and it was closely connected with St. Agatha.

Daniels's undergraduate experience was shaped by people. One was Helen Lockwood, her freshman English teacher, who helped Daniels decide to be a writer. Another was her father, who told her in the car as he was driving her to Vassar that he would begin her sophomore year that he had colon cancer. "That's when it was set in my mind," says Daniels. "That was the important reason for me to succeed in a student at Vassar.

In her father's death a few months later was devastating."I think it was a while to get used to the idea that was I own," Daniels says. "She didn't officially become her guardian, though Professor Helen Lockwood and Anna Keigh were her surrogate parents. Eight years later, she too was dead, having helped her graduate Vassar to secure a place in the Vassar College's composition.

In 1942 Daniels got her master's in American literature at the University of Michigan and married John Lothrop Daniels, a 38 Harvard grammar who came to her from New York party in 1940. They lived in Long Island while John worked for Gunnin Gramaicin. When he joined the deans of studies in 1966, in this job, Daniels quickly developed a reputation as a "tough cookie" (her words). Her predecessor had been a very kind, "I didn't know," says Daniels. "At the rate. This is a room is full of things about herself. I can feel her tenderness. She suggests we go to the college while it's still light, to visit the campus. She wanted to follow up on a question that someone in the development office had emailed to her that morning.

Daniels is a lifelong Vassar College. Her husband, who died in 1996, continued to be a Vassar affiliate. As the president of the college, she has been a strong voice for the institution. The college's decision to merge with Yale was a personal one for Daniels, who has been a strong supporter of the merger. She has been a leader in the college's efforts to integrate the two institutions, and has been active in the college's efforts to attract new students and to improve the college's financial situation.

The college's president, Daniels, as important as she is in the college's development, is also a strong advocate for the college's academic programs. She has been a strong supporter of the college's efforts to integrate the two institutions, and has been active in the college's efforts to attract new students and to improve the college's financial situation.

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Although Vassar’s drama and film programs are within the same academic department, they have historically been housed more or less separately. But as of May they are under the same roof, in the new Center for Drama and Film. On the site of the original 1866 Avery Hall, the three-story tall, 54,000-square-foot, Cesar Pelli-designed center took $25 million and two years to construct.

Since the 1920s, Avery Hall had belonged to the drama department. (Before that, it was home to the calisthenium and riding academy, a bowling alley, an art gallery, and the classics and English departments, among other functions.) And for the last 30 years it also accommodated the offices of Vassar film professors. Despite its charm, the building was in a notorious state of disrepair. Drama students and faculty had to dodge perpetual roof leaks and avoid rickety stairways on their way to class or during productions. Film majors, meanwhile, typically came to Avery just during professors’ office hours. They used the basement of New England Building or Blodgett Hall to screen films and shot footage wherever they could find an electrical outlet, on or off campus.

In conceiving a new space for both the drama and film departments, “the greatest design achievement,” according to Professor of Classics Rachel Kitzinger, who is also director of academic facilities development, “was accommodating all the needs of both in a building whose footprint is only slightly bigger than the old Avery, and doing it in a way that allowed both separate and shared facilities.” Indeed, the Center geographically and visually preserves Avery using four floors, one of them below ground. “The building now has one and a half times as much space inside,” said project manager Dan Fritzche, adding that the challenges he encountered “resulted in hundreds of design drawings and much effort on the part of the designers, contractors, and suppliers coordinating installations and making everything fit.”

At first there were two basic options for construction: restore the building or tear it down and start from scratch. Complete restoration would have been the most expensive solution — and the least effective one, in terms of handling the projected growth of the department. But, with Avery being such a distinctive campus structure, “nobody wanted to be responsible for tearing it down completely,” noted project architect David Coon. To compromise, the Victorian west façade of Avery has been retained, reflecting the curricula grounded in the study of traditional plays and
Top: the original façade, restored by the class of 1953 in celebration of their 50th reunion; Bottom: the William Cromwell Knox Lobby, given by Nancy Allison Knox ’36 in memory of her husband.
films. Mansard roofs, like those that topped Avery's original towers, have been recreated, and next to each tower is a glass-enclosed stairway that connects the foyer to the rest of the building, drawing the old and new together.

The structure's exterior stripes of light- and dark-gray masonry of varying widths refer to Marcel Breuer's award-winning design of adjacent Ferry House, built in the 1950s. The main entrance to the building is no longer through the middle doors of the façade, which still faces the center of campus, but on the north side, opening onto the Frances Daly Fergusson Quadrangle, defining the campus space behind Main. (The Quad, predicted Kitzinger, “will become a much-used space for productions that ask for an outdoor setting.”) The entrance is canopied in bright orange, and the building's window frames are burnt orange. The play of warm colors is also an interior theme, and President Fergusson chose a variety of fabrics for furniture and drapes that would offset the slate and untreated-maple floors.

A section from Curtain Wall (JFK-IAT), a sculpture of a curtain cast in modified gypsum by art professor Harry Roseman is housed in the north lobby, and although not specifically a stage curtain, it beckons to the Mary Anna Fox Martel [1890] Theater around the corner. This proscenium theater has a 320-seat auditorium, a 64-by-30-foot stage, a 56-foot-high fly, two costume shop areas, a prop shop, and a scene shop. The scene shop doors open directly onto the stage; the doors are large enough to accommodate whole pieces of scenery for unloading. The auditorium seats are plum-colored, and the wood is a rich mahogany. The orchestra pit can be removed to create a thrust stage, providing students with a versatile main stage complemented by the other two black box theaters on campus, past the new quad.

The Center's costume shop is stocked with fabrics in every hue, from muted to eye-catching, and there are several sizes of jackets, dresses, skirts, suits, pants, coats — plenty of options for the demands of any acting role. Lecturer of Costume Design Holly Hummel is happy to have everything consolidated in one large space, explaining that “in the old building many of the costumes were stored in series of closets and rooms along a hallway, with each space having its own key and door to open.” Also, a craft shop and a commercial soup vat for dying cloth will allow for creative and efficient costume production.

The classrooms, some of which provide lush views of Sunset Lake, are state of the art. Said film department head Sarah Kozloff, “The rooms will be equipped with ‘smart podiums’ that let the instructor move back and forth from VHS to DVD to computer at the touch of a button, plus lower the lights or adjust the sound.” She and her students will have all the resources of the Internet at hand, plus they’ll finally be able to sit in comfortable seats, in a properly darkened room, for film screenings. The new Center also includes high-tech, spacious editing rooms and a multimedia studio. “Production will get an enormous boost in terms of facilities being modernized and conveniently located all together,” Kozloff said.
It's hard to know who will appreciate the facility most, faculty or students. "Avery was more or less a disaster," remembered Professor of Drama and Film James Steerman, citing the building's state of disrepair. "A lot of exciting theater happened there, but in many cases the poor facilities got in the way of both students and faculty being able to express their creativity in the most effective manner." Bill Barclay '03, who directed the first performance in the new Center before his graduation, said, "The old Avery had incredible character...[but] I love the new building—it's the hub of campus."

Hummel said, "I adored the old Avery building where I taught and designed for almost 20 years. But with the retention and restoration of the original façade, I believe we will now have the best of the old and the new!" Professor of Drama Gabrielle Cody still senses "the old Avery behind the new walls, especially in the auditorium. It's just that when it rains, we don't have to place buckets on stage anymore!" For present and future drama and film students, she added, "The possibilities of what they can now achieve, the range of technical experimentation available to them, is mind-boggling!"

Ian Burbage '04 took a year off from his studies to take advantage of the new resources available to the film department. "The lack of any studio space, lighting, and digital technology made me seriously question whether I would remain at Vassar after my first semester," he said. But after learning of the new Center construction, he decided to stay and delayed his senior year until the building was complete.

Ken Schulz '91, a New York–based lighting designer and 2001 visiting professor, described the new space as a "facility worthy of the department. It's going to allow for things that couldn't happen before." Picturing the inevitable influx of new students eager to use the Center, he called it "the theater of dreams — you built it, they will come."
Reunion 2003 For three days in early June, members of Vassar classes ranging from 1928 to 1998 made it through the rain to eat, drink, and be merry.
Turn on the television. Pick up the remote. Don’t touch that dial. Tune in. Turn it up. Now say hello to the Littmans. No, they are not the latest contestants in a reality series, subjects of a sitcom, or new comedic duo. They are Jeremy ’83 and Jonathan ’85, two brothers who have made quite an impression upon Hollywood, and more likely than not, upon the programs that are projected out of your television and into your living room.

Jeremy is an established television writer who has worked his way up from spec scripts to staff position to “show runner,” a term that means exactly what it sounds like it should. Jonathan is an executive who is now the president of television production for Jerry Bruckheimer Films, where he is currently managing and producing seven programs. Combined, the brothers Littman have been involved with more hit shows than could occupy a primetime lineup, Profiler, CSI, CSI-Miami, Law and Order, and Without a Trace among them.

“Slow and steady wins the race,” said Jonathan, a testament that the road to such accomplishments was not without the occasional speed bump or blinking red light. While at Vassar, neither Jeremy nor Jonathan envisioned themselves being involved in television. Jeremy studied art history and Jonathan studied drama, and though they had been close growing up, their school lives were distinct and separate. With perhaps the slightest twinge of foreshadowing, their academic spheres intersected but once, in a “History of Drama and Film” class taught by Professor James Steerman. From here they separated even further, stretching the distance between coasts like a rubber band, soon to snap back together again.

Jeremy did not always know what he wanted. Upon graduation he knew that he did not want to follow the logical progression of an art history major by working in a museum, and therefore set his sights on law school at Emory University, though he admits without complete enthusiasm. He practiced law for several years in New Jersey, but quit in 1991 when he received a very loud and shrill wake up call: the death of his older brother Josh. “When he died it made me realize that I needed something to make me happy, and ultimately I found it.” For Jeremy, happiness came wrapped in moving boxes and promises of California sunshine, where Jonathan was already established.

Jonathan spent his senior year at Vassar commuting between classes and New York City where he worked in theater, pursuing his dream of becoming the next Hal Prince, theater producer and director extraordinaire. Ultimately disenchanted by the world of Broadway and beyond, he decided not to listen to the dream, but to the voice of his friend and classmate, Mark Bennett ’85, who said, “Jonathan, all you do is watch TV. Why don’t you do something with that?” A secretarial job at ABC came first, followed by a move out west working at NBC.
daytime, which he considered his big break. “It’s all about getting your foot in the door and kicking it open,” he said. The door swung wide as Jonathan moved from NBC to vice president of drama at Fox, and finally to Jerry Bruckheimer Films, where the length of his 18-hour days are only exceeded by his delight in doing what he does.

Jeremy found himself digging up research for a reality law program on NBC daytime, and still made time to write two scripts (scripts written without being commissioned on the speculative hope that they will be purchased), one for Picket Fences and the other for X-Files. He received positive feedback and soon had an agent. As he explained, “A lot of people will tell you, ‘You can’t. You shouldn’t. Don’t. You’re crazy.’ But, if you truly believe in what you’re doing, you’ve got to go for it.” And go he did, to a job writing for Law and Order where he worked for three years as a staff writer. “It was the kind of job where you get thrown in at the deep end and have to learn to swim. It was not an easy job, but it was the best training I could have gotten.” And that training led him to where he is now, in the midst of achieving one of his career goals, being the head writer of a brand new show.

For Jeremy and Jonathan being Fearless is a family affair, and also the title of their most recent project, a program slated for the Fall 2003 schedule on the WB network about a girl without the gene for fear who becomes an FBI agent. “I’m proud that I’m not afraid to take risks,” said Jeremy. “I’m proud of listening to that little voice inside my head that says, ‘Maybe I can do this.’” And maybe the two can do it together. They are working side by side this season, taking risks and molding them into opportunity, Jeremy as show runner and Jonathan as producer. For the Littmans, however, it is not a genetic aberration that has gotten them to where they are today. It is simple, old-fashioned perseverance. “Keep knocking on doors,” said Jonathan. “Eventually someone will open up.” —Ashley Wilkins ’03

About Books

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THE ROMANTIC ROAD AND OTHER STORIES
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TO LIVE OR DIE IN ARIZONA
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by Yaw O. Agyeeman ’93
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by Seamus Carey ’87
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THE AMERICAN FILM INSTITUTE DESK REFERENCE
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Stonesong Press, 2002

THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK OF SCIENCE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS: Answers by Leading Scientists to the Most Commonly Asked Science Questions
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Anchor Doubleday Books, 1997

THE NEW YORK TIMES SECOND BOOK OF SCIENCE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS: 225 New, Unusual, Intriguing, and Just Plain Bizarre Inquiries into Everyday Scientific Mysteries
by C. Claiborne Ray ’68, et al.
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BERNARD DARWIN ON GOLF
Edited and introduction by Jeff Silverman ’72
The Lyons Press, 2003

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Edited and introduction by Jeff Silverman ’72
The Lyons Press, 2003

VIDEO
SISTERS IN CINEMA: A History of African American Women Feature Film Directors
by Yvonne Welbon ’84
Our Film Works, 2003

beyond vassar
I was determined to go and live somewhere like India ever since I can remember," said Kimberly Sciaky Yeshi ’77, an American expatriate who educates, employs, and provides housing for approximately 300 displaced Tibetans in Dharamsala, India. As founder and managing director of the Norbulingka Institute, named after the Summer Palace of the Dalai Lama, she helps keep Tibetan arts, language, and writing alive.

Inaugurated in 1995 after nearly a decade of planning and construction, the institute, a trust chaired by the Dalai Lama, was built almost entirely on donations. Running Norbulingka with Tibetan husband Kalsang, formerly a monk, is “definitely a team effort,” Yeshi said. She, as the managing director focuses on human resources and sales, overseeing production and workshops and marketing the products. As the director, Kalsang—who was formerly chairman of the Dalai Lama’s cabinet and before that secretary of the Department of Religion and Culture—established the institute’s Literary and Cultural Research Center, which publishes Tibetan literature, and the Academy of Tibetan Culture, a college-level study program in Tibetan studies mainly for newly arrived students from Tibet. For the past two years, Kalsang has also been directing the team working on the official biography of the Dalai Lama.

At Norbulingka, new arrivals from Tibet and second-generation Tibetan refugees are trained in the traditional arts of Tibet, reviving ancient methods that are gradually becoming extinct. They work as a group under a master, creating exquisitely crafted metal statues of Buddhist deities, Thangkas (religious paintings hung to enhance contemplative experience), or traditional carved furniture. These are made the way they were hundreds of years ago and can be commissioned on order. Others make items to be marketed, ranging from home furnishings to...
clothing and which find their place in the modern home setting. Sales of the products, as well as rentals of two guest houses, help subsidize Norbulingka. With tourism ever-mercurial, Internet sales help stabilize income, Yeshi said, but further fundraising is essential to support the institute's growth—including plans for additional housing, schoolrooms, and a new statue workshop.

A practicing Buddhist by the age of 16, Yeshi knew early on that she wanted to live in Asia and "do something other people didn't usually do." She followed in the footsteps of her three sisters by attending Vassar, which provided "a broad education, a way to look at and analyze things." She became an anthropology major, further pursuing her Eastern interests, and took Tibetan language lessons in New York City, where she met Kalsang, who was her instructor.

Yeshi went on to the University of Virginia for a Ph.D., so she could teach Tibetan Buddhism. Kalsang, who was already teaching part-time at the University of Pennsylvania, joined her in the program. In 1979, after graduating and marrying, they settled in Dharamsala because, as Yeshi explained, they had "decided to come to work for the Tibetan cause instead of pursuing an academic career. Deep down, I wasn't inter-

Although Yeshi herself has never been to Tibet, and her husband has not been back since leaving in 1959 (their two elder daughters have visited the country "and like it very much," she said), she is thoroughly devoted to preserving its culture. Foregoing academia, she has found a new kind of home, commenting, "I travel often and feel adjusted everywhere, though I like best being home in Dharamsala." Kim Yeshi has realized her lifelong dream of going East.

— Rebecca Anguin-Cohen '96

Though not a Buddhist, Anguin-Cohen studies Buddhist Insight Meditation as well as hatha yoga in New York.

If you'd like to help the Norbulingka Institute in their efforts to preserve Tibetan culture, tax-deductible donations can be made online at www.norbulingka.org, or write to Norbulingka Institute USA, c/o Stoneman, Chandler & Miller, 99 High Street, Boston, MA 02110. Selected Tibetan gifts, fashions, furniture, and artwork are available from the Norbulingka online catalog found on the above Web site.
FOR MOST OF US, OUR FIRST DAY AT VASSAR IS INDELIBLY ASSOCIATED WITH HAULING BOXES UP CROWDED STAIRCASES in the hottest week of August, and the frustration is directly proportionate to how many stairs are between the car and your room. Yet the ladies pictured here appear calm, collected, and especially well-dressed for the occasion of the 1940 freshman registration. Perhaps they were light packers? According to Special Collections, standing on the left is current VQ class correspondent Blair Rodgers Major '44, and seated (eyes closed) is Mary Chapman Shearer '44. If this has sparked your memory, please write us. — Lindsay Dawson '05
Brian Corll '74 has made a hobby out of patience and the passing of time. Instead of latching onto the adrenaline-fueled pursuits of recent years, Corll has turned his path towards the ancient art of bonsai, the process of dwarfing trees or plants by pruning and training them into an aesthetically appealing shape.

For Corll, bonsai is not only a connection with nature, but a connection to the past. "Bonsai gives me the opportunity to create a miniature living thing, a tree or even a landscape of trees and moss that I can hold in my hands and which evokes a scene from my memory."

Corll initially began his years with bonsai with a book he bought at the Vassar Coop Bookstore in his senior year, though he didn’t begin to grow trees until 1976. After housing indoor species in various apartments for years, he married Donna Landis and moved into a house in 1988. In 1993 Corll started his own commercial bonsai nursery and sold pottery, tools, and trees until 1998. During this time he was also member of the Susquehanna (PA) Bonsai club where he acted as president for a year, and in 1996 served as the chairman of the American Bonsai Society's annual symposium. He now has around 150 trees which is no small task considering that Corll says he "can spend hours or even days styling a single tree."

To any beginners who wish to start, he offers some advice. "There is no such thing as 'instant bonsai.' Development of bonsai material takes years. Don’t be discouraged by that fact. Years are going to pass anyway. You might as well be growing a potential masterpiece in the meantime!" — A.W.
On Her Own Path

For singer, guitarist, and songwriter Kat Mills '93, her music escorted her on the inevitable trip down memory lane at this year’s reunion. She performed original songs from her first solo album, Long Time, in Davison House, recalling many days spent sitting around the hallways strumming the guitar with friends freshman year. Since then, Mills has been a part of the popular down-home bluegrass band, Grass, known for its rollicking harmonies, along with husband Nick Polys '96, Jesse Selman '96, and Will Solomon '96.

When the time was right for the members of Grass to go their separate ways, Mills embarked on a solo career with her guitar in hand. Though living in southwestern Virginia, she’s continued to play widely throughout the northeast, with “a bit of twang here, a taste of smoky soul there.” She’s currently “expanding” to venues in the south, and has built up an extensive repertoire of original music, which she debuts on Long Time. “Releasing the CD is my first step towards being a serious songwriter and trying to go for that,” she said. Along with a violinist, percussionist, and a multitalented producer, the CD includes back-up tracks from Will Solomon on mandolin.

Mills said that at reunion, she saw very clearly that she wasn’t the only one trying to step forward with her art. She explained, “I realized that people who were dancing in college were dancing, people who were writing then are writers now. So many people had forged their paths in college.”

As she sings on “Free Ideas,” “Here I am, rising up like stands of trees, tryin’ to tell ’em something...
Rights of passage, are pullin’ me out in two directions. Black and white and back again...
Free ideas flow freely...”
To hear more from Kat Mills, and to buy her CD, visit www.sweetcut.com/kat. — C.M.
Oil Matters

I was troubled by the profile of Assistant Professor Brian McAdoo and his course on oil (Vassar, Summer 2003). McAdoo’s unqualified statement that “oil is really a good thing” is astonishing. In the developing world, the sad reality is that oil development has left a trail of environmental destruction, human rights violations, disruption of local livelihoods, violent conflict, corruption, and ruined national economies. Far from being a blessing, the oil wealth of these countries has been a curse: These impacts have been demonstrated in numerous studies published in recent years by academic and World Bank researchers.

As a policy analyst for international aid agency Oxfam America, I have for the last several years monitored the impacts of oil and other extractive industries on poor countries and local communities. I have seen first-hand the serious negative impacts that these industries have had in countries like Ecuador, Colombia, Nigeria, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Sudan, Papua New Guinea and Indonesia. It’s not a pretty picture, certainly not one in which “things are really a lot better because of oil.” Even the oil economies of the Middle East—long perceived as unalloyed success stories—are suffering from autocratic governments, stunted political institutions and the lack of vigorous private sectors.

If these alternative perspectives are not discussed in McAdoo’s course, I truly hope Vassar students have the opportunity to examine them somewhere else in the college’s curriculum. If not, Vassar is doing its students a tremendous disservice.

As an alternative to McAdoo’s reading list, may I suggest the following:

The Paradox of Plenty: Oil Booms and Petro-States, by Terry Lynn Karl (University of California Press, 1997)

Oil Windfalls: Blessing or Curse? by Alan Gelb and Associates (World Bank, 1988)

Where Vultures Feast: Shell, Human Rights and Oil in the Niger Delta by Oronto Douglas (Sierra Club Books, 2001)

Amazon Crude by Judith Kimerling (Natural Resources Defense Council, 1991)

Total Denial Continues: Earth Rights Abuses Along the Yadana and Yetagun Pipelines in Burma by Earthrights International (Earthrights International, 2000)

Extricate Sectors and the Poor by Michael Ross (Oxfam America, 2001)

Keith Slack ’92
Washington, DC

A Professor’s Response

Thank you for the thoughtful comments on the “Oil” class syllabus offered by Keith Slack ’92. There is an ongoing discussion within the new and rapidly growing environmental studies programs concerning the best way to address students’ (and faculty’s) strongly held beliefs about the state of the environment. I believe it is impossible to fully separate my own feelings from the class (nor do I think it beneficial to do so), however as a scientist teaching a science course, I try my best to select material that makes an attempt at objectivity. I would not choose some of the books outlined in Mr. Slack’s letter for the same reason I would not use publications from the American Petroleum Institute.

Thus far, the class has been taught just two times. The theme of the first class (Spring 2001) was the debate surrounding development of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and the second offering (Spring 2003) was the war in Iraq. Next spring (2004), I will be co-teaching the class with Ismail Rashid, a West African historian. As with each of the courses, we look at specific issues of the people and the environment in the regions affected, be it the Gwich’in and Caribou of the Arctic, the Kurds and refinery in northern Iraq, or next year, the Ogoni on oil spills in the Niger Delta.

Brian G. McAdoo
Mary Clark Rockefeller Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies

In Memoriam

On November 14, 2002, our mother, Emily Westwood Gardner ’42, died peacefully after battling numerous chronic and progressive diagnoses over the last year of her life. She stayed spunky and outspoken, seeking true answers to her questions. Her spirit stretches far, having touched many people in all walks of life, striving to find equity and fairness in compensation and vocation. Emily spoke with great fondness in her voice when remembering scenes from her childhood and — eventually — as a “Vassarian of ’42.” She would readily tell of her brief history as a student pilot. She spoke proudly of her great-grandmother, Augusta Lucina Johnson Westwood, probably one of the county’s earliest female A.B.’s and reportedly on Vassar’s first faculty. These experiences helped shape her resolve to actively facilitate and uphold equality in our society.

Emily was the conscience of the policies she helped form and later administered, during her 27-year career at the University of Michigan. The formal roles she filled at the university included staff benefits counselor, personnel representative and finally, affirmative action employment representative under the Office of the President. After her retirement in 1984, she stayed busy with leisure traveling — off again across the country to tour Native American lands, another Vassar Reunion, or cruising to Alaska or the Galápagos! — and, of course, her special brand of “composting for good gardening.” She was an energetic community and development volunteer, whether supporting equity in compensation and education for the Ann Arbor Public Schools, being an active member of Habitat for Humanity or reading to second graders at her neighborhood’s school. Folks who had a connection with her and were touched by her life came together at the Michigan League on the University of Michigan campus, on Saturday, February 1, 2003. There, we celebrated the memory of her energy and the special spirit she leaves behind. If you have a memorable scene/interaction involving her special zest for life, we would love to know about it (yael2@comcast.net) — so much to learn, so much still to hear about The Person who was our mother.

Many thanks to the Vassar community and especially the class of ’42 for adding to our mother’s courage and “good tooling,” helping to form her uncompromising and ethical soul.

With good wishes for health and wisdom, Emily’s daughter and son,

Yael Goldenberg
Ann Arbor, Michigan

John L. Gardner
Santa Barbara, California

In Memoriam

It is with both sadness and joy that I feel compelled to comment to the Vassar community about the recent passing of Elizabeth MalcolmDouvan ’46; sadness due to an irreparable loss, and joy resulting from having been greatly touched by a veritable mountain of a woman.

A noted historian was once asked to opine about the fascinating life of Winston Churchill in a few sentences, to which he tellingly replied that it’s impossible to accurately summarize a man whose astonishing tenure as Prime Minister was but a small entry in his cache of accomplishment. Similarly, Libby’s peerless, storied contributions to social psychology as a
professor emerita at both the University of Michigan, and the Fielding Graduate Institute were merely a backdrop to the number of lives she touched with her warmth, grace, and humor.

I first met Libby's daughter Kate Douvan '82, and Kate's son Sky (one of Libby's three grandchildren) at reunion in 1997. Shortly thereafter, I moved to Los Angeles and was uncannily adopted into Kate's wonderful family. Sunday night dinners together at Kate's house became de rigueur, and on several of those occasions Libby, and her husband Victor, were in attendance.

On one such occasion, Libby, Kate, Skye, and I dined out at an Asian restaurant in lieu of Kate's house. Failing health notwithstanding, the mood was very light indeed, and Libby listened intently and proudly to Skye's middle-school stories. When the conversation turned to what I had been doing, I spoke of plans I had for an upcoming mountaineering trip to a large volcano in the Cascade Range. Libby asked several questions about the undertaking including my preparations and motivations therefore, and I remember being warmed by what I perceived to be a welcoming, hospitable gesture. Little did I know, that this diminutive woman in her mid-70s, who had lived the lion's share of her life in Michigan, was quite taken with mountain adventure, and was decidedly well-read regarding the same. In retrospect, I shouldn't have been surprised in the least.

Thereafter, Libby and I struck up an email dialogue, which continued until her health began to deteriorate more rapidly. I remember thinking one day, upon receipt of one of her emails, about how many thousands of students and colleagues alike must have been similarly moved by her boundless compassion and wisdom over the years, not to mention her doing family. I don't think I have ever been more humbled. Libby was, succinctly, the epitome of all the wonderful things that Vassar represents, and more.

ADAM J. EPSTEIN '87
San Francisco, California

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Daniels lent her experience as dean of studies to the committee and helped develop a 100-page comprehensive plan for Vassar that included, among other things, a new curriculum that "freed students from the lockstep progression of courses and prerequisites" that Daniels had had to enforce. The result was a more flexible curriculum with multidisciplinary courses, fewer mandated course requirements, and more opportunities for independent and off-campus study. "A new, modern Vassar College was created," says Daniels. "It was a decisive moment in Vassar's history, and I had something to do with it."

It's Sunday morning and Betty has her regular 8:30 tennis game with three friends at the Poughkeepsie Tennis Club. Afterward, she takes me to the Aurora Café downtown for cappuccino and powdered-sugar pastries. After a long walk she graduated from Vassar, Ellie and I used to go there when we took time away from our lives to spend a weekend together. The shiny black marble tables are still there. You can see your face in them.

One of the most satisfying outcomes of Vassar going coed, Daniels feels, was the flexibility it gave women who wanted to enter the college. "Women who were married, had children, and went to a two-year college could come to Vassar if they met the requirements," she says. "It was an end-run around the admissions office. I admitted a lot of women that way." Empowering women is another force that drives Daniels — the need to keep alive Matthew Vassar's vision of expanding women's learning and opportunities, a vision that she herself has fulfilled in her own life.

Daniels brushes powdered sugar from her fingers and looks at me intently across the black marble table in the café. "This is a world I've lived in," she says. "It's a real world. I know more about the community that Matthew Vassar lived in than anyone else. That's why when I give tours or presentations about Vassar, I don't have to search for words or dates or what went on. I understand the small and big ideas and the unfolding of events through the years. I've become part of Matthew Vassar's community. It's the way I've been fulfilled because I'm present in the past, as well as the present."

We leave the café, and Daniels drives me to the train station. I'm reluctant to end our conversation. For most of the last 65 years, Vassar College has been her family. She has suffered the pain of loss, as well as the joy of growth, learning, and discovery in this community. I ask her, "Why? You could have been a college president yourself somewhere else. Why did you stay?"

"I'm satisfied to spend my whole career at Vassar. College until I die," Daniels states. "I can't think of anything I'd rather do than spend my time thinking about Vassar, its history, the alumnae/i, and the students I've met." I lean over to kiss her goodbye and get out of the car. She waits for a few minutes to make sure I catch the train, then drives off.

Due to space limitations, this article was abridged. To read the author's full piece, visit the VQ Website at www.vqvassar.edu/vq.

Gaylen Moore '66 is the author of several books, including Particular Passions, Talks with Women Who Have Shaped Our Times. She is currently an education consultant in New York City.

VASSAR FALL 2003 63
Keeping the Link — Outstanding Service to Vassar

Eugene Aigle Havemeyer SI has trouble playing favorites. When it comes to her volunteer work, choosing which activity holds the most importance or provides the most satisfaction proves to be a difficult task. Perhaps the problem is that she’s done so much, a problem that has resulted in being given AAVC’s annual Award for Outstanding Service to Vassar College.

Havemeyer has been contributing to the Vassar community for over 50 years, from her days as an undergraduate to her current position with the President’s Advisory Council. In 1958 Havemeyer acted as reunion chairman of her class, an event which she sees as an integral part of life after Vassar. “Reunions are the things that keep us bonded together.” In that spirit Havemeyer was elected president of the class of 1951 in time for their 50th reunion, in 1996. “What a joy to serve my class as president,” she said. “Being able to serve them for five years was perhaps the most rewarding experience I’ve ever had. Making us all feel and know that we’re together, that we care about each other. We had a very strong class then and we have a very strong class now.”

In 1958 Havemeyer became involved with the Vassar Club of New York as the Chairman of the Prospective Students Committee. She soon went on to become the director and an Alumnae/i Trustee representative during her six-year service. This position allowed her to become involved with older alumnae/i, some with graduation dates pepping the 19th century. “We had so much in common,” said Havemeyer. “People were activists, suffragettes, feminists—nothing has changed. The student body at Vassar has always been whirling and controversial. It was wonderful, if you could handle it.”

And handle it she did, with grace and fortitude, going on to serve with a variety of organizations on numerous boards and committees. From 1967–1973 she acted as treasurer and as a director for the AAVC Board. In 1979 she was elected as an AAVC Trustee, the last person appointed to that position to serve an eight-year term. She continued for a four-year term as a VC Trustee in 1991 for a total of 12 years of service. “Serving on the Vassar board was like home to me,” said Havemeyer. “It was wonderful.”

The Pyramid Society, an organization with the goal of keeping former trustees both in contact with one another and in touch with Vassar, was headed by Havemeyer from 1992-2000. Of her time as chair she says that, “it was a lot of fun to do. It was a time to be creative with how we kept in touch.”

Havemeyer is currently involved with the President’s Advisory Council, an organization that started only two years ago with the mission of providing “a vehicle through which a representative group of Vassar alumnae/i, parents, and friends can engage with the president of the college and offer feedback on issues of pressing concern to the institution.” Havemeyer’s years offer “a sense of perspective” to the group, “I sometimes feel that I am a part of living history,” she said.

The history of Vassar College has certainly been affected by her presence. In addition to all of the aforementioned activities, Havemeyer also has been chair of the Development Committee from 80–83, served on the VC Board as chair of the Nominating Committee from 86–87, on the Executive Committee from 86–87, and sat on the board of the Friends of the Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, among others.

Meg Veneck Johnson ’84, the incoming chair of the AAVC Alumnae/i Awards Selection Committee said, “we give these awards for length, depth, and breadth of service, and Eugenie certainly fits the bill on all accounts, from trustee to fundraising, thank you note writer, and she has been involved with Vassar virtually from the time she left.”

Upon hearing that she had received the Award for Outstanding Service to Vassar College, Havemeyer says that she was, “greatly honored. To me, Vassar is the most important institution I’ve ever served. I’ve been so fortunate. There are so many people who want to serve Vassar and somehow, I got to be one… I really feel it was a gift to me. How could I be so lucky?”

— Ashley Wilkins ’03

Pre-Scream Ice Cream a Success!

AAVC board members and Vassar trustees served up free ice cream to students to ease steady week burnout. More than 500 Dove Bars and fruit bars were handed out in less than an hour. Pre-Scream Ice Cream, as it was called, took place the week before the traditional Primal Scream, which marks the start of exam week at the end of each semester.
announcements

New York City—River View Need a pied-a-terre in the city? Beautiful Riverside Drive apartment available Tuesdays—Fridays. Water views all around, terrace overlooking the river and park, and ideally located on the Upper West Side, 86th Street. Contact Sherry Salman ’74 at sherrysalman@weblogget.net or call 845.758.0523.

Boothbay Harbor, Maine 100-year-old shingle-style summer house with private ocean front for rent in 2004. Located in an old summer colony with tennis courts, beach, and other activities available. 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, sleeps up to 7. Contact Richard Williams ’75 at 202.298.7551 or email richardwilliams@earthlink.net.

Seeking Interview Subjects I am writing a nonfiction book about men and women who become parents after age 35. If you were born or adopted when either your father or mother was age 35 or older, I would appreciate the opportunity to interview you by phone. Anonymity respected if you prefer not to be identified. Many thanks to the “older parents” of ’67 who have already been so helpful. Contact Mary Jane Checchi ’67 at mjchecci67@aol.com or 301.320.9695.

Palm Beach, Florida Tropical paradise, lush citrus, orchards, bananas, mangoes, figs, flowers, palms, orchids, lawns, a heated pool that keeps the temp you set, quiet North End street, a few steps to sandy beach, bicycle trail along the lake at the other end. Main house furnished 4 BR, 4 baths, eat-in gourmet kitchen, spacious rooms, hot tub, Steinway, every convenience. Just bring clothes. Behind the gate on other acre is charming guest cottage, 2BR, 1 bath, kitchen by the pool facing a cabana with bath. Send for photos. Available January through May at winter prices: 1 mo. $12,000, 2 mo. $22,000, 3 mo. $33,000, 4 mo. $40,000. Summers: 1 mo. $5,000, 2 mo. $9,000, 3 mo. $12,000, 4 mo. $15,000, 5 mo. $18,000. West Palm, just across the bridge has great restaurants, shopping, theatre, ballet, opera, golf, tennis, boating, croquet, music, balls, this side of the bridge policed, totally safe, and beautiful. Contact Joan Javits Zeeman ’39 at jjzeeman70@aol.com or 802.496.4300 or fax 802.496.7186.

NYC Apartment Rental Minimum stay of one year, with park views. Call L.L. O’Keefe ’80, 212.876.1786.

French Provinces Rent our lovely rustic farmhouse in southwestern France. Midway between Dordogne and Lot rivers. Quiet picturesque farming village near Figeac and St. Céré; 45 minutes to Sarlat, capital of the Dordogne valley; 70 km to Cahors and its vineyards. Available late August-November. Well located for those interested in pre-history, medieval history, gastronomy, hiking, and canoeing. For information contact Professor Geoffrey Jelke at 845.437.5210 or visit the Web page at http://irving.vassar.edu/faculty/gg/nadal/france.htm.

Sunny Contemporary House On 3.5 idyllic acres for sale on secluded road in Landgrove, Vermont. 3 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms, living room, fireplace, studio, library, and spacious deck with mountain view near Bromley and Stratton mountains and Vulting cross-country ski area. Contact Alice Pitcher Dibble ’47 PO Box #124, Peru, VT 05152 or 802.824.5407.


Vassar faculty, students, alumn/i, and staff are invited to submit items to announcements. There is no charge for this bulletin board service; publication is as space permits. Submissions may be edited for length and style. Deadlines for announcements are Sept. 20 for winter, Dec. 20 for spring, March 20 for summer, and June 20 for the fall issue. Fax: 845.437.7425; email: vq@aavc.vassar.edu. More listings can be found or posted to AAVC’s Online Bulletin Board at www.aavc.vassar.edu/online/bulletin_board/.
For generations, Vassar clubs have raised money for student scholarships. Many area Vassar clubs host annual benefit fundraisers or sell Vassar-related goods and other items to help send students to Vassar. From selling pecans and pasta, to a night at Lincoln Center, to hosting a major designer show house, Vassar volunteers are busy throughout the year raising money for scholarships. This year (2002-2003), the following Vassar Clubs sent a scholarship donation to Vassar College:


When ordering, be sure to include:
- your address and phone number
- the address and phone number of the "ship to" location
- all applicable taxes and charges

Two Gift Ideas from the Vassar Club of London...

Enamel Box
A unique memento of Vassar, commissioned by the Vassar Club of London and handcrafted in Bilston, England, by Halcyon Days artists using 18th-century Georgian enameling techniques. Decorative and useful for storing all kinds of things, it makes a perfect gift. Formed in white enamel, the box measures two inches wide and costs $150.00. Price includes postage, handling, and insurance. Full-color photographs are available online (www.avc.vassar.edu/clubs/thinkpresents).

The Vassar Spoon
The Vassar Club of London has commissioned a Sterling silver Vassar spoon, handmade and designed by one of the few craftsmen in the British Isles to use traditional methods of metalworking. The award-winning craftsman, Richard Cook, has had his work exhibited in the UK and stateside. In 1999, he was awarded the Goldsmith's Company (the City Livery Company) prize for the best handmade prototype at The Art and Evolution of Cutlery Exhibition. This elegant Sterling silver spoon is engraved with the V&C monogram and bears the Queen's Golden Jubilee Hallmark — making it a true collector's item! It measures 6 inches, weighs 60 grams, and comes in its own handsome Vassar burgundy presentation box with a short description of the craftsman inside. It is a sugar spoon that can also be used for jam, marmalade, and sauce. It sells for $195 and can be ordered from AAVC or purchased from the College Store.

Please make checks payable to:
Vassar Club of London
c/o AAVC, London Box or Vassar Spoon
Almune House
161 College Avenue
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603-2904
845.437.6440

Bostons Rocker, Captain's Chair
Classic chairs made of selected northern hardwoods are available in several finishes.
1. Satiny black finish, with gold striping and Vassar college seal. (Captain's armchair has natural cherry arms.)
2. All cherry.
3. Black with cherry crown. Chairs with cherry crown have a black, laser-engraved seal.

Perfect as a graduation gift or for the home or office. Personalization available:
1. Solid brass plaque, engraved with up to three lines of 17 characters each, mounted on chair back, $15.00 additional.
2. One line of up to 32 characters, laser-engraved under college seal, $10.00 additional.

For Christmas delivery, orders must be placed by November 10. Prices include the freight charges. Chairs are sent via UPS. Delivery may be made to home or business. Captain's Chair $325.00
Adult Rocker $325.00
Side Chair $245.00
Child's Rocker $225.00

Please make checks payable to:
Vassar Club of Boston
c/o Kathy Asa '77
1518 Grafton Road
Millbury, MA 01527

Historic Vassar Print

Original print, 19" x 24" of 1861 Remick-designed perspective of Main Building. Reproduced in full color from the original in Vassar's archives. A beautiful collector's item.

Price: $55.00, includes postage, handling, and mailing tube (Massachusetts residents, please add 5% sales tax.

Please make check payable to:
Vassar Club of Boston
c/o Mary Bowen Nokes '63
35 Woodpark Circle
Lexington, MA 02421-7207

Needlepoint and Cross-Stitch

College seal needlepoint: Vassar's seal or another college's, hand painted on #13 mono canvas. Complete kit with Paternayan Persian yarn for pillow or picture $39.50. Painted canvas only: $20.00. Counted cross-stitch kit with embroidery floss, graph, and #14 Aida cloth: $13.00.


Please write for listing of additional available seals. For needlepoint kits add $3.00 for postage and handling. Add $1.50 for cross-stitch kits.

Please make checks payable to:
Jersey Hills Vassar Club
c/o Mrs. Edward Rapkin '50
180 White Oak Ridge Road
Short Hills, NJ 07078-2928
Mammoth Pecan Halves

“Best of the Crop” from Albans, Georgia, in one-pound packages attractively marked “Vassar College Scholarship Fund” in rose and gray, $700 per pound package (4 lbs. minimum) plus shipping (billed later). Case lots available (24 lbs. $168 per case. Enclose check with order by first class mail before December 1st!

To order, please write:
Maryland Vassar Club
P.O. Box 565
Baltimore, MD 21212-0024

Chocolate Truffles

Don’t settle for mediocrity any longer. Trained in candy-making by a White House chef, David Schaller ‘82 and Marie College ’81 are pleased to offer their superb chocolate truffles to the Vassar Community again this year. Voted “Best of Rhode Island,” these truffles, of the same fine quality served to international heads of state, can be yours to savor. Each 25-piece box contains a generous pound of these exquisite confections. All five flavors (raspberry, amaretto, mocha, rum, and vanilla) are made using the finest ingredients to please even the most discriminating palate.

These candies are priced at $24.95 per pound delivered (continental U.S.).

Please write “Vassar” on the check memo line. RI residents, add 7% sales tax. Orders also may be placed by calling 800-Mr.WONKA (800.679.6632) between the hours of 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. eastern time. We accept VISA, Mastercard, and Discover. To avoid shipping errors, orders may also be faxed to 800-Mr.WONKA.

Visit our retail store, The Chocolate Delicacy, 219 Main Street, East Greenwich, RI. A generous 20% of sales will be donated to the Vassar Club of Rhode Island.

Please make checks payable to:
Place House Chocolates
P.O. Box 1034
East Greenwich, RI 02818

Vassar Root Beer

Matthew would be proud of this great way to raise scholarship funds! Be one of the first to order handy, spicy Vassar Root Beer made by the Old Dominion Brewing Company of Virginia. Your family and friends will love this flavorful brew, and you’ll have the satisfaction of knowing that your purchase will help send a group of terrific kids to Vassar. Cost per 12-bottle case $14.95 plus $5.00 shipping. For inquiries only (do not send credit card information), email rsvp@vassarok.org.

Two Gift Ideas from the Poughkeepsie Area Vassar Club...

Nilda’s To Go

How many of you remember grabbing a delicious Nilda’s cookie, brownie, or biscotto to top off your meal at the Retreat? Well, the Poughkeepsie Area Vassar Club is partnering with Nilda to bring you her tasty treats — and raise money to support the Vassar Scholarship Fund. These gift baskets are filled with Nilda’s desserts and Vassar merchandise, and cost $46.50 per basket (includes East Coast shipping).

Please make checks payable to:
Poughkeepsie Area Vassar Club
c/o Ron Samuelson ’92
200 Freedom Road
Pleasant Valley, NY 12569
845.636.8302

Gardener’s Log

Practical Gardener’s Log by Lillian Berry Willis ’64. An 8” x 9” loose-leaf binder filled with forms on which you can record the history and particulars of all your plants. May be inscribed with your special message. Price: $13.00, plus $3.00 per book for postage. Connecticut residents, please add 6% sales tax.

20% of sales to be donated to the Vassar Club of Fairfield County. Please note “Vassar” on your order to ensure credit to scholarship fund.

Please make checks payable to:
The Living Environment
248 Farmingville Road
Ridgefield, CT 06877

To order, please make checks payable to:
Vassar Club of Washington, DC
P.O. Box 60022
Potomac, MD 20859-0022

Or use any major credit card to charge your order by phone, 301.299.4655

Florida Citrus — And More

Cushman is famous for its honeybells, but all its citrus, other fruits, nuts, jams, jellies, and gift baskets are fabulous. Ten percent of every order bearing the code VASSAR will be contributed to the Vassar Club of Palm Beach/Martin Counties’ Scholarship Fund. This applies to all orders whether by fax, phone, mail, or Internet. Order direct from the grove and be sure to include the VASSAR code! Call, visit www.honeybell.com or email info@honeybell.com for more information.

To order:
Attn: Order Department
Cushman Fruit Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 24711
West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4711
800.776.7675 (toll-free)
681.965.3585 (local)

Tennis Racquet-Shaped Pasta

A lined, recycled tennis ball container filled with quality racquet-shaped pasta makes a perfect year-round gift for tennis aficionados. 10% of sales benefit the Vassar Club of Fairfield County.

Two 11-oz. containers $12.50 ppd.
Four 11-oz. containers $25.00 ppd.

Please make checks payable to:
June Marks ’94 Tennis Fashions
33 Nutmeg Drive
Greenwich, CT 06831-1211
203.531.7159

Cleveland and Anderson Are Back in Print

Everything Correlates and Vassar: A Second Glance are back! The 1940s classics with humorous, on-target drawings of campus life have universal appeal and have been reprinted by the class of 1948 for the benefit of Vassar College. Cost of both books mailed together in the U.S. is $12.00 post paid.

Please make checks payable to:
Class of 1948
P.O. Vassar 1948
V-264 Carolina Meadows
Chapel Hill, NC 27517
Winning World War II in Iowa
BY MARY DRAPER JANNEY '42 AND BARBARA GAIR SCHEIBER '42

Sixty-one years ago, three of us, newly minted graduates of the Vassar class of 1942, set out to change the world. The country was at war and we, like most of our classmates, were eager to contribute to victory and lasting peace. During senior year we concocted something we called "The Plan" — an idea for helping the war effort on the home front. Having grown up in New York City, we wanted to live and work in a small rural community. It seemed to us that many Americans "out there" wanted to be useful but didn't know how. Perhaps, we thought uncertainly, we could help small-town America organize for effective participation.

Our plan took us to Washington, DC, where officials in the Department of Agriculture referred us to colleagues in the Agricultural Extension Service in Ames, Iowa. In mid-June, in our 1940 blue Plymouth convertible, we drove to Ames, where we were greeted with warm enthusiasm. Small towns did indeed need help, the professionals said. There was a lack of education about war issues, a need for leadership and coordination. One typical town had conducted four scrap-metal drives at once; metal was now rusting in the dump. In other places, nothing was happening at all.

The answer, the Ames team believed, lay in bringing townspeople together in communitywide councils composed of representatives of all the organizations in a town — churches, schools, civic groups, lodges, social clubs, farm agencies. "The habit of working together instead of at cross purposes in wartime," they said, "could carry over into peacetime." They added, "Why not adopt the community council idea as your plan? It could be a model for other towns."

Their words fit the dreams that had filled our late-night talks of "The Plan" at college. And they picked a town for us to get started: Clarion, a rural trading center in northwest Iowa, with a population of 3,000.

On July 4, 1942, armed with names of community leaders, we headed through the Iowa cornfields to Clarion. Our first contacts suggested that to support ourselves, we organize a summer day camp for children. We were all experienced camp counselors, so within a week we were going door to door, recruiting campers. "Camp at Home in Clarion" opened on July 13 (the cost: $2.00 a week for full-time attendance, $1.00 for half-time). Camp provided our livelihood for the next three months. It also introduced us successfully into the community and inspired trust in "the three girls from the East."

On weekends and after work each day we sought out and met with representatives of the town's many organizations. In this town of 3,000 there were more than 60 organizations, including six separate religious denominations, veterans groups, civic groups such as Rotary and Kiwanis, and study groups like the Monday Club, the Knotty Thread, the Merry Eight.

(1 to r) 1942 classmates Juliet Fleischl Brudney, Barbara Gair Scheiber, and Mary Draper Janney in the 1940 Plymouth convertible

People spoke of failed drives — piles of newspapers and rubber that never got picked up — and too many separate fundraising appeals. "We need one consolidated fundraiser," a church leader said; it would save time and energy and raise more money. "A few people have done all the work," he continued, "yet everyone is anxious to do something."

At each interview, we floated the idea of a community council to coordinate the town's efforts. The idea caught on. People were excited by the possibilities, not only for tackling wartime problems, but for dealing with long-term community needs. We were stunned when one prominent businessman confronted us coldly, asking, "Who or what sent you here to start organizing a movement?" But despite his accusations, interest in the community council idea grew.

On September 4, a meeting attended by representatives of more than 50 organizations was held at the county courthouse. After three hours of debate, they voted unanimously to establish a townwide council. To our amazement and delight, they adopted the concept of coordinated community action as their own. Our "Plan" had become theirs. Natural leaders emerged and put it into action. When we left in late September, the council was up and running.

The story has an epilogue. We wrote to Eleanor Roosevelt about our experience. Meeting with us, she agreed that democratic grassroots action was important — important enough to invite us to tell the President about it. In October 1942, the three of us had dinner at the White House with eight other guests. We recited the tale of Clarion, Iowa, to a genial, beaming President. In spite of the incredible pressures he faced leading a nation at war, he listened patiently, made a few jokes to put us at ease, and nodded his approval.

We'll never forget that evening or the lessons we learned in Clarion — about people, communities, and ourselves — lessons that have guided us throughout our lives.

Juliet Fleischl Brudney '42 was the leader of our threesome, spurring us on with her boundless energy, her wit, her intense, unflagging commitment. Juliet died on January 23, 2003. This account is dedicated to her.
Furthering a tradition of opportunity

The small upstate New York town of Seneca Falls, famed as the birthplace of the women’s rights movement in America, has something very much in common with Vassar—a rich history based on the proposition of equal opportunity for all. Indeed, Harriot Stanton Blatch, a Seneca Falls resident who went on to prominence in the movement co-founded by her mother, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, graduated with the Class of 1878. The Seneca Falls tradition at Vassar has continued with alumnae/i such as Marion Grieve Baker ’29 and Janette Thorpe Pfeiff ’56, who was inspired to attend the College by Mrs. Baker.

Recently Mrs. Pfeiff, the first woman to serve as Supervisor of the Town of Seneca Falls, decided to further the tradition of opportunity so closely identified with her hometown and her alma mater. She made the College the beneficiary of her IRA, thus creating a special bequest which will secure income for her family while, ultimately, leaving a gift to Vassar. “It’s a win-win,” Janette Pfeiff declares. “I can provide for my family, and it will also be the basis for another young person to have the kind of opportunities I had. Since a scholarship made my Vassar education possible, I wanted to make certain I passed that along.”

To find out more about how you can plan for your own future and help future Vassar students by making a gift to the College, please call the Gift Planning Office at 845.437.5487, or e-mail giftplanning@vassar.edu.
Coming in 2004...

Expedition to Antarctica
January 15–28

Village Life in the Dordogne
April 23–May 1

Amazon Voyage
March 6–14

Literary Ireland: Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of “Bloomsday”
June 13–23

Shakespeare in the Mediterranean
Fall 2004

A Celebration of Mexican Colonial Cities
October 25–31

...and more to come!

For a complete list of the trips offered in 2004 or for additional information on the AAVC Travel Program, please contact Alumnae/i Program Coordinator Kathy Knauss at 800.546.7282 or travel@aavc.vassar.edu or visit our Web site at www.aavc.vassar.edu.