

# On the Same Page

News for Parents + Families



UP CLOSE

## Trustee Mentors

The transition from college life to a meaningful career can be tough. But thanks to a new pilot program at Sarah Lawrence College, 20 graduating students now have guides. The program pairs seniors with members of the Board of Trustees for one-on-one mentoring, Sarah Lawrence style. Over the course of the year, the pairs talk regularly, discussing everything from how to find a job to life after graduation. The official program, which is sponsored by the offices of Career Counseling and Alumnae/i Relations, ends in May, but most of the pairs say that their relationships will last much longer. Here's a look at what both students and mentors are getting out of it.



**The Big Questions** Frederic Richter '10 and Mark Goodman '83 discuss life after SLC.

### Making Plans: Nancie and Jess

**Name:** Nancie Cooper MFA '04

**Profession:** Retired management consultant

**Why do you like being a mentor?** "On the board we spend so much time talking about the students; it's wonderful to be able to put some faces to all that planning. Jess is a wonderful storyteller, and she's very good with children, drawing them out. I really enjoy spending time with her."

**Name:** Jess Goodwin '10

**Concentrations:** Theatre and education

**Why do you like being a mentee?** "I like having somebody who I can talk to about the practical things. I love my teachers and they've been incredibly supportive, but it

isn't always fair to ask them specific things like how to get a job."

**Best advice received:** "What I like about Nancie is that she gives very clear goals, like 'I want you to do these three things this month.'"

### Friendly Advice: Mark and Frederic

**Name:** Mark Goodman '83

**Profession:** Lawyer

**Why do you like being a mentor?** "I love Frederic's enthusiasm, his intelligence, and his sense of limitless possibility. Spending time with him reminds me of the way the world looked when I was leaving college and trying to figure out what would come next. I fully expect to keep in touch with Frederic as he moves on

from Sarah Lawrence. Ending our relationship at graduation would seem very artificial."

**Name:** Frederic Richter '10

**Concentrations:** Writing, history, and film

**Why do you like being a mentee?** "It gives students the opportunity to meet the trustees, who are so integral to the running of the school. Little things that would normally go way below their radar, like prices at the Pub, come into their awareness from conversations with students."

**Best advice received:** "Mark told me that if I don't think law school is right for me, it's not. He gave me reassuring advice that I'm not insane to pursue film. It's nice to have a friend, someone who's concerned about you but who's not a student."

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# How Parents Enrich Life @ SLC

Parents make a difference, contributing in so many ways to life at Sarah Lawrence. How? For one thing, current SLC parents are a great resource for incoming students and their families.



**Elise Schramm**  
Director of Parent Giving

Each year, parents of current students are invited to attend receptions around the country for admitted and new students, hosted by the Office of Parent Giving. Current parents provide visiting families with solid information about what to expect from Sarah Lawrence.

These events have been so successful we have added several more for the coming year. As we expand this program, we need more current parents to get involved. Please let me know if you'd like to join us.

Throughout the fall and winter, parents participated in our first regional phonathon to support *The Fund for Sarah Lawrence*. To date, parents and family members have contributed nearly \$200,000 to the *Fund*, bringing us closer to our goal of \$300,000 from families by May 31. Way to go!

Gifts from parents have an enormous and immediate impact on campus life. For example, support from parents has fueled a major technology initiative on campus. With gifts from the Leo Model Foundation and the Riddick Family, the College is creating smart classrooms with integrated video, audio, computer, and Internet capabilities. Andrews 103 and 104 were renovated this year, and more classrooms are under way.

Smart classroom technology helps faculty to connect with students. As Shannon Donahue '13 said about her class, "Reading China's Revolutions through Literature":

"The smart classroom gave us a different perspective into the material that we were studying. For example, we read a story that took place in rural China in a village built underground. Right in the middle of the discussion, Professor Neskar was able to pull up photos of what the village would have looked like. It made events of the past feel much more tangible."

There are lots of ways you can make a difference for students. If you want to get involved, please call or e-mail me!

**Elise Schramm, Director of Parent Giving, can be reached at (914) 395-2536.**

## We're moving online!

This is the last print issue of *On the Same Page*. To save both money and trees, the newsletter is going digital, and will be delivered via e-mail starting in the fall. Be sure we have your current e-mail address: [www.slc.edu/parents-contact](http://www.slc.edu/parents-contact). See you on the Internet!



## What faculty say about the new smart classrooms

"When the students are discussing, for example, a short story that was written during the time of the Nanjing Massacre, I can move effortlessly to film footage of the actual massacre. The



films have become much more a part of our discussions. Indeed, the films have become texts themselves, rather than simply an illustration of our text."

—ELLEN NESKAR, ASIAN STUDIES

"We are able to post reviews and access the Internet when a question arises in class, and see the findings, as well as images of or interviews with an author being referenced. Nothing needs to be set up in the classroom."

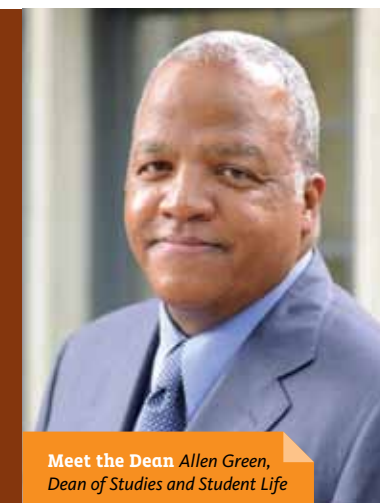
—MARY LACHAPPELLE, WRITING

"I wanted to illustrate the Russian use of 'I wonder' (in Russian, *interesno*), which is very prominent in *Winnie-the-Pooh* when Piglet accidentally bursts the balloon he is bringing to Eeyore. In the Russian he says *interesno* three times in a row, so I showed them that video clip. What I love about the multimedia system is how easy it is. I'm not struggling to switch between the different sources (PC, DVD, VHS) and wasting time."

—MELISSA FRAZIER, RUSSIAN

## Q+A

### Questions for Dean Allen Green: Career Preparation



Meet the Dean Allen Green, Dean of Studies and Student Life

#### Will my student be able to get a job with a liberal arts degree?

Definitely. At Sarah Lawrence, students develop the communication, research, and writing skills employers are looking for. Sarah Lawrence students know how to solve problems, think on their feet, and adapt to a changing job market. The key for students is to communicate to employers how their skills transfer to the workplace. That's where the Office of Career Counseling comes in.

#### What kind of career resources do you offer students?

The Office of Career Counseling provides access to CareerLink, a database of over 1,100 internships all across the country. We also offer a comprehensive database of jobs that aggregates listings from all over the Internet, including employer sites. And its Web site ([www.slc.edu/occ](http://www.slc.edu/occ)) has all the resources students need to build a career plan, from self-assessment tools to interview tips.

#### What should first-year students be doing about jobs?

We take a developmental approach to career counseling, and it's never too early to start. Younger students can attend employer site visits and start doing self-evaluations to figure out what kinds of careers they might be interested in. Career counseling staff can review the results with them and explain what kinds of jobs might support their interests.

#### What should my student do over the summer?

Summer is a great time for students to gain experience in the fields they're interested in, and many summer internships are paid positions. If students are undecided or considering several fields, an internship can help clarify their interests.

#### The senior class is about to graduate in the middle of a recession. How are they supposed to find jobs?

First of all, our support doesn't end at graduation; alumnae/i are welcome to use SLC's career counseling resources at any time. Many new graduates are choosing to participate in a "gap-year" program, like the Peace Corps, Teach for America, or AmeriCorps. This is a good way to gain experience while buying some time until the economy improves.

#### What can I do to help?

Encourage your students to visit the Office of Career Counseling if they haven't done so yet. Career counseling will give them the tools to explore what's out there. And there is still time to apply for summer internships.

**Allen Green, dean of studies and student life, can be reached at (914) 395-2252.**

+ Students develop the communication, research, and writing skills employers are looking for.



## Stay Connected

If you've got questions, these folks have answers.

#### Academics

**Allen Green**  
Dean of Studies and Student Life  
(914) 395-2252

#### Financial Aid

**Heather McDonnell**  
Director of Financial Aid  
(914) 395-2570

#### Health Services

**Nance Roy**  
Director of Health Services  
(914) 395-2350

#### Student Accounts

**Rhoan Cassells**  
Director of Student Accounts  
(914) 395-2553

#### Student Affairs

(housing, activities, etc.)  
**Evelyn Leong**  
Acting Dean of Student Affairs  
(914) 395-2575

#### Supporting SLC

**Elise Schramm**  
Director of Parent Giving  
(914) 395-2536

#### Keep in touch!

*On the Same Page* is published by the Office of Parent Giving.

Visit [www.slc.edu/parents](http://www.slc.edu/parents) to:

- refill your student's i-card
- send a care package
- review important dates
- update your contact info
- read the parent handbook
- keep up with SLC news and events
- ... and more!

# 10 Great Conference Work Titles

Coming up with a title for a 30-page paper that you've labored over for three to six months is no easy task. Yet Sarah Lawrence students manage to craft some fascinating nomenclature that reflects not only the work's content, but the spirit of Sarah Lawrence itself. After all, both are deeply intellectual, eminently creative, and a little bit funky. For example:

- The Evolution of Profanity: How Swearwords Came to Be and How They Are Perceived Today**  
Erin Bailey '12  
*English: History of a Language* | Ann Lauinger
- An Experiment in Biorobotics: The Crocobot**  
Kirin Emllet Furst '10  
*Introduction to Mechanics and Introduction to Electromagnetism, Light, and Modern Physics* | Scott Calvin and Daniel Johnson
- Agatha Christie's Arsenal—Poisons Most Potent: A Biochemical Analysis of the Mechanisms by which Poisons Kill**  
Jesse Gelles-Hurwitz '11  
*General Chemistry and General Biology* | Todd Tippetts and Raymond Clarke
- The Evolution of Mariachis**  
Sophia Jimenez '12  
*Studies in Music and Culture* | Jonathan King
- Sex with the Hero: The Twisted Portrayal of Women in the James Bond Series**  
Clara Dennis '12  
*First-Year Studies: Philosophy and Film* | Roy Brand
- Smart Drugs: The Ability to Buy Brainpower**  
Kady Goldlist '11  
*Cell Biology* | Drew Cressman
- Inventing the Ultimate Cell Biology Board Game**  
Emily Yuan Shuan Lin '09  
*Cell Biology* | Drew Cressman
- Baroness Elsa von Freytag-Loringhoven: Goddess of New York Dada, Grandmother of Performance Art, and the Proverbial Proto-Martyr of Punk**  
Naomi Kaye '09  
*Dada and Surrealism* | Judith Rodenbeck
- The Plague of Coral Diseases**  
Catherine Griffin '11  
*Oceans in Peril* | Raymond Clarke
- Vulcanalia: A Contextual and Theoretical Investigation of Star Trek's Famous Species**  
Jean Flint '10  
*The Feeling Brain* | Elizabeth Johnston and Leah Olson

## SPORTS SHORTS



In December, the **women's swimming** team won the Hudson Valley Women's Athletic Conference invitational, placing first in all but two events. Catherine Griffin '11 broke the College records in the 50- and 100-meter breaststroke, and the team of Catherine Griffin, Sara Leatherbarrow '10, Hannah Sabet '12, and Rachel Schneider '10 broke the record in the 200-meter medley relay.

**Men's basketball** finished their season in February; they played well, but ended up seventh in the conference. The **men's tennis**, **women's softball**, **crew**, and **equestrian** teams are currently competing.



### Go Gryphons!

View highlights from every game at [www.slc.edu/sports-highlights](http://www.slc.edu/sports-highlights).

# Interviewing Barbara Walters



Barbara Walters returned to campus in January.

The crowd in Reisinger Auditorium started forming an hour before the event. Tickets had been snatched up almost instantly a month in advance. The response on campus seemed to indicate the presence of a rock star, but the honored guest was actually an alumna. Barbara Walters, the acclaimed journalist and one of Sarah Lawrence College's best-known graduates, sat down with faculty and students for an intimate question-and-answer session in January.

Students were enthusiastic about the event for a variety of reasons. Lauren Hudson '12 and her friend Zoe Frederick '12 both mentioned the example Walters' lifelong career provides to women. Among her many achievements, Walters was the first female co-host of the *Today Show* and the first female co-anchor of the *ABC Nightly News*. "I'm proud to have her as an alumna of the school. It sets a certain standard," said Hudson. Frederick explained that her grandmother attended Sarah Lawrence and had given her a book of essays by alumnae reminiscing about their time on campus. One of the essays was by Barbara Walters. "It was from before she was famous, but it was well written, and it got me really excited," Frederick said.

Other students were more familiar with Walters from *The View* and her celebrity interviews. When asked why he had come to the event, Michael Foote '10 claimed that his mother made him attend. "But I'm an adamant watcher of *The View*," he admitted. Nellen Dryden '11 said, "I'm interested to see what she has to say about celebrity culture and how her Sarah Lawrence education has helped her in her life."

The evening kicked off with a brief video depicting the highlights of Walters' career,

including clips of her interviews with personages from Fidel Castro to Monica Lewinsky. The television icon then took a seat and permitted herself to be the one interviewed for a change. Faculty members Rachel Cohen (writing) and Nicolaus Mills (literature) joined senior Jane Claire Quigley '10 onstage with Walters and started the conversation before opening the floor to the packed audience. For an hour Walters spoke candidly about her career, her process when preparing for an interview, and the challenge of finding a balance between career and personal life.

Asked who she was proudest of interviewing, Walters identified Anwar al Sadat, the former President of Egypt, due to "his role in changing the course of history." Walters was the first person to arrange a joint interview between Sadat and former Israeli prime minister Menachem Begin, who were later both awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for creating and ratifying the Egyptian-Israeli Peace Treaty.

On the topic of the media in today's culture, Walters acknowledged that news is everywhere these days. But she argued that it's actually harder to get an accurate understanding of current events because most "new media," such as blogs and cable TV shows, tend to be very opinionated and less balanced than more traditional sources like newspapers and network news. "You're not getting the other side. You're not finding out what the rage in this country is really about," she cautioned students who admitted to getting their news from Comedy Central's *The Daily Show*.

"The joy of my life has been to feel that maybe I've made a difference in the lives of people. ... That's the reward."

At the end of the night, Walters concluded by describing several experiences in her career that have touched her personally, from the moving stories of children coping with disabilities to the bravery of Christopher Reeve after his accident. "The joy of my life has been to feel that maybe I've made a difference in the lives of people I've interviewed or in the lives of the people watching. That's the reward."

—Sophia Kelley MFA '10

## Notable Events

View all events open to the public at [www.slc.edu/events](http://www.slc.edu/events).

### APRIL

**Monday, 4/12**  
**Nuclear Flashblindness: The Trinity Site in American Public Memory**  
7 p.m.

**Friday 4/16 – Sunday, 4/18**  
**SLC Poetry Festival**

**Saturday, 4/17**  
**Women's Softball Home Game**  
vs. Brooklyn College  
Noon

**Tuesday, 4/20**  
**Men's Tennis Home Match**  
vs. Lehman College  
5 p.m.

**Wednesday, 4/28**  
**Susan Orlean Reading**  
6:30 p.m.

**Thursday, 4/29**  
**Visual Arts Review Show**  
Opening Reception  
5:30 p.m.

### MAY

**Monday, 5/3 and 5/10**  
**SLC Jazz Ensembles**  
7 p.m.

**Thursday, 5/6**  
**Fasa Foli African Percussion Ensemble**  
1 p.m.

**Friday, 5/7**  
**Science Poster Session**  
4 p.m.

**Friday, 5/7 – Saturday, 5/8**  
**Student Dance Performance**  
Choreographed by Deganit Shemy  
7:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, 5/11**  
**SLC Orchestra**  
7:30 p.m.

## Trustee Mentors continued from cover

### Building a Network: Paula and Lindsey

**Name:** Paula Rudnick '72

**Profession:** Retired television producer

**Why do you like being a mentor?** "I think it's really helpful for students to have a network once they graduate and enter the professional world. It is very gratifying to help someone who is just starting out."

**Name:** Lindsey Kempton '10

**Concentrations:** Film and writing

**Why do you like being a mentee?** "I really enjoy being able to connect with someone who went to Sarah Lawrence and who can take the experience from here and apply it to the film industry."

**Best advice received:** "She told me that it takes two years to get your foot in the door, so I should look at my first jobs in the industry as the equivalent of going to an entertainment grad school. This advice has really helped me frame my perspective going into the job market."

### Fresh Perspectives: Rona and Jennifer

**Name:** Rona Carr '74

**Profession:** Principal and founder of Austin International Group

**Why do you like being a mentor?** "I'm on the facilities committee for the Board of Trustees, and it's been many years since I've looked at campus from a student's perspective. Listening to Jennifer talk about what she's

doing helped me look more closely at the physical aspects of the campus and the quality of the social life."

**Name:** Jennifer Wong '10

**Concentrations:** Japanese and literature

**Why do you like being a mentee?** "I've always been interested in how people got to where they are. I want to hear what it's like, life after SLC—both the bumps in the road and the fortuitous accidents."

**Best advice received:** "I didn't really sign up for the mentoring program seeking advice. I signed up wanting to know someone who graduated from SLC and is happy about where they are and what they've done. As a graduating senior, that's the most reassuring thing you can hear."

# Why We ♥ SLC



## DEBBIE COOPER & DAN STERNBERG

**PROFESSIONS** Dan: mergers and acquisitions lawyer; Debbie: vice president and general counsel for Cooke Center for Learning and Development

**OTHER CHILDREN** Sam (18)

**SLC CONNECTIONS** members of the Parents Advisory Council since 2008

**DEBBIE** "Julia went to a private high school that was supposed to offer small classes and lots of discussion, but it didn't really live up to its promises. So when she got in to Sarah Lawrence, I was a little skeptical about the claims, and I wondered if she would thrive there. But we saw right away that the teachers were really committed to making class a meaningful experience. Julia was so empowered by the ability to find out about classes in advance. She's become so much more self-confident. This is a very rigorous form of education, and she takes it really seriously. It's the first time in my experience that an educational institution has lived up to the hype."

**DAN** "We stopped by campus one evening, and Julia was at an event her friend had organized, where students were reading children's stories out loud. Fifteen kids were reading *Blueberries for Sal*, the classic picture book. They passed it around and everyone read a page, including me. The students had brought their favorite children's books, and they read them aloud. I loved seeing how excited they were, doing this for each other. There was a great energy in the room. I decided I really wanted to participate, even though I felt slightly like the awkward old man in the room. I read the first chapter of *The Hobbit*, and drew a nice round of applause. I would have read more if I could. It made me feel young again."

## JULIA STERNBERG '12

**CONCENTRATIONS** writing, art history, literature

**DON** Mary LaChapelle (writing)

"When I came to visit SLC, I was nervous. I didn't know anything about the College. It was a gorgeous spring day, and we went on a campus tour. There were circles of students having class on the North Lawn, and as we walked past, some of them clapped. Then one guy stood up, cupped his hands around his mouth, and yelled, "Come to Sarah Lawrence!" And everyone on the lawn started cheering. That's when I knew that Sarah Lawrence was the right place for me. There's such a strong sense of community here. I can't walk across campus without seeing at least five people I know who wave at me and want to chat. When I'm getting food in Bates, I run into my teachers, and they want to talk too. I wasn't expecting that. It's great."

# Students Win Met Essay Contest



Young Americans  
Bianca Galvez and Elissa Hutson

"It spoke to me, the painful look in one man's face, the dust, and the feel of the South in the 1950s. I went back home, kept thinking about those guys at the funeral, and came up with the story of Jim Taylor."

Sarah Lawrence students Elissa Hutson '12 and Bianca Galvez '11 both took novelist April Reynolds Mosolino's fiction-writing class last semester. They both have writer Melvin Bukiet as their don. And in the fall, both shared the top prize in a fiction-writing contest held by the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The competition asked college students to write a short story in response to "Looking In: Robert Frank's *The Americans*," a special exhibition of Frank's photos from the 1950s that closed recently.

Organized by the College Group at the Met, the contest attracted 55 participants from around the country. Neither Hutson nor Galvez knew that the other had entered. Their win was cause for celebration in Mosolino's classroom.

"I was so excited when Bianca told me she had won," says Mosolino, who suggested in early October that her students submit stories. "Then Elissa came in to tell me she'd won too. I couldn't believe it."

Christine Larusso, the museum's college marketing coordinator, says the entries were narrowed down to finalists by a committee, and then shipped to the judge, author Aimee Bender, without the writers' names or school affiliations.

Hutson's work, "The Death of Jim Taylor," was inspired by Frank's photograph of three black men standing pensively by cars at a

funeral in Helena, South Carolina. She told the story from the point of view of a white man who feels he can't be seen at the funeral of a black man in the segregated South of the 1950s. The concept came to her after she visited the exhibit of Frank's photographs, which were taken on a cross-country trip.

"I was mesmerized by the photo," says Hutson. "It spoke to me, the painful look in one man's face, the dust, and the feel of the South in the 1950s. I went back home, kept thinking about those guys at the funeral, and came up with the story of Jim Taylor."

Galvez's submission, "Barbara Stanwyck It's Your Time to Shine!" was drawn from Frank's picture of a dreamy young woman operating an elevator in a New York hotel. The story, written as one paragraph, is the woman's inner monologue about her life and the people she encountered in the elevator.

Evidently prolific and inspired, Galvez wrote her story on the evening it was due and sent it off by e-mail a minute before the midnight deadline on November 1.

"I was in a friend's room, and she was cheering me on," says Galvez. "I didn't have any time to revise, and sent it at 11:59."

Winning the contest brought both students to Symphony Space on Manhattan's Upper West Side in November to hear their stories read by professional actors as part of National Public Radio's *Selected Shorts* program. The segment was aired on WNYC in February.

Hutson says she was stunned to hear actor Boyd Gaines read her piece. She recalls that growing up in New Mexico, she listened to Gaines read Ernest Hemingway stories on audio tapes her mother played in the car. Now he was reading her work.

"It was an out-of-body experience, hearing my words performed," recalls Hutson. "Boyd Gaines has a deep, manly, Southern voice that was perfect for my piece. I loved the way he brought it all to life."

—David McKay Wilson

 **On the Web:** Read the students' short stories at [www.slc.edu/hutson-galvez](http://www.slc.edu/hutson-galvez).



## Dates to Remember

**Friday, May 14**

*Last day of classes*

**Sunday, May 16**

*Residence halls close at 11 p.m.  
(except for seniors)*

**Wednesday, May 19**

*Senior/don dinner, 5:30 p.m.*

**Friday, May 21**

*Commencement 2010  
Keynote speaker:  
Julianna Margulies '89  
(Residence halls close  
for seniors at 8 p.m.)*

Visit [www.slc.edu/parents/important](http://www.slc.edu/parents/important)  
to see the entire school year schedule.