

SARAH LAWRENCE COLLEGE

Archived News

2001-2002

News articles from 2001-2002

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Alumnae/i Citation for Achievement

Date: Jun 7, 2002

News Release

The four recipients of this year's Sarah Lawrence College Alumnae/i Citation for Achievement have all followed a path of public service, their contributions to society making a difference in countless lives. They will be honored at a luncheon during the College's 2002 reunion on Saturday, June 8.

The four recipients are Dr. Ann Barnet, founder of The Family Place, a parenting support center for families in Washington D.C., Janet Rosenwald Becker, housing advocate and leader in establishing housing and health care trust funds for the City of St. Louis, Elise Bernhardt, founder of Dancing in the Streets and Executive Director of The Kitchen in New York City, and Catherine Muther, founder and president of the San Francisco-based Three Guineas Fund, which promotes social justice by expanding access to economic opportunity for women and girls.

Ann Birnbaum Barnet

A firm believer in the role that human relationships and environmental stimuli play in intellectual, emotional and moral development, Ann Barnet, a physician, has stepped out from the lab, office and classroom to put her convictions at the service of society. In 1980 she founded Family Place, Inc., a resource and support center for lower-income families in Washington D.C. She remains its president, overseeing an organization that provides counseling, education, skill development programs and referrals to some of the most vulnerable members of society - the disadvantaged and their young children.



Dr. Barnet has also written and published on the many factors that influence and drive infant brain development, and on how the quality of parenting and care-giving of the very young work for good, or not good, both for the children concerned and for society as a whole. *The Youngest Minds*, which she wrote with her husband, Richard, is a scientific treatise as well as a demonstration of the critical need for healthy, nurturing and compassionate childcare.

Barnet's public efforts on behalf of children and families have been complemented by her work as a doctor and teacher. She taught neurology at George Washington University School of Medicine, where she is now Professor Emeritus. She is also a pediatrician and specialist in child neurology at Children's Hospital, in Washington, where she founded the EEF research and Evoked Response Laboratory.

"As a physician, scientist, writer and champion of families and children, as well as parent and grandparent, Ann Barnet has seen, and studied from every angle, the myriad relationships and other natural forces that converge in infancy and childhood. Her scholarship, dedication and caring are pure, deeply insightful and proactive in their approach to problem-solving, and worthy of our gratitude and admiration," reads the citation she will receive.

Janet Rosenwald Becker

Janet Becker has devoted her life to humanitarian causes. Even as a teen, in her native Philadelphia, she participated in inner-city volunteer work. Her years at Sarah Lawrence, during which she was a volunteer with the NAACP and met such Civil Rights figures as Thurgood Marshall and Roy Wilkins, served to define what became her life's work: helping people find dignity through decent housing and racial justice.



Becker moved to St. Louis in 1953, and has never left. She began by volunteering with Freedom of Residence, a fair housing group, later joining its board of directors.

A dozen years' involvement with the League of Women Voters, at both city and state levels, was perfect preparation for Becker's post as community liaison for Missouri State Senator Harriet Woods. For seven years she managed requests to the senator's office from Missourians for assistance and information.

In 1979 she co-founded the Ecumenical Housing Production Corporation - now called Beyond Housing - which helps families find places to live and decent schools, and offers job training, parenting classes and even guides to children's summer camps. In 1987 she helped establish Adequate Housing for Missourians, active in both the political and grass-roots arenas in fighting for housing for low-income families. She was AHM president for three years. She has been involved with numerous other housing organizations.

Becker has worked on drafting federal legislation to create a nationwide housing trust fund, and with the National Low Income Housing Coalition, where she served on the board and executive committee.

A listing of Becker's work "is too long for this document, and too slim to illustrate her extraordinary, selfless dedication to the most basic human rights of fairness, shelter and the opportunity to live in dignity," reads her citation.

Elise Bernhardt

A choreographer who counted legendary dance faculty member Bessie Schönberg as a mentor and friend, Elise Bernhardt has always thought big when it comes to staging dances. The Brooklyn Bridge, Grand Central Station, the Coney Island Boardwalk and other world-famous sites have been both backdrop and performance space for Bernhardt's dancers.



In 1983 Elise founded the production company Dancing in the Streets, dedicated to presenting contemporary and repertory work to large audiences in public places. It was a way to bring art to great numbers of people and at the same time help to kick-start the revitalization of surrounding communities. Bernhardt produced performances by some of the most galvanizing artists of our time, including Merce Cunningham, Gregory Hines and Savion Glover. She also created a special fund to support other artists wanting to stage open-air performances.

Since 1985 Bernhardt has been a member of the Bessie committee (named for Schönberg), which annually presents the New York Dance and Performance Awards (better known as "Bessies").

In 1998 Bernhardt became executive director of The Kitchen, an experimentation and performance space for artists in dance, film, literature, music and multi-media. In a time when the arts are searching for fresh ways to fulfill their age-old role of creating expressions and explanations of the world, Bernhardt is reaching out to find new artists with new ideas in new media - and bringing their work to new audiences. Her community outreach efforts and programs for student artists will help assure a next generation of creators and performers, and of audiences that derive energy, joy and enlightenment from the arts.

Bernhardt "personifies the Sarah Lawrence student who dreams big and accomplishes bigger," reads her citation. "All along the way, she has supported, employed and promoted fellow Sarah Lawrence graduates, and been a warm, enthusiastic and unflagging booster of the College. Elise understands the role of art - whether in downtown New York City or halfway around the world - and its power to spark imagination and foster community. The future of art is in the hands of people like Elise Bernhardt."

Catherine Muther

Sarah Lawrence is a place that encourages initiative and discovery, and Cate Muther is an ideal example of how these can find fruition again and again in life after college. From studying dance at SLC and anthropology at Cambridge, to pursuing careers in business and then philanthropy, Muther has always trusted her instincts and let her initiative guide her. The result has been both personal success and an example for other professional women to follow.



When Muther realized that management held greater allure than anthropological research, she headed to Stanford, earning her M.B.A. in 1978. Her first job was consulting with a federal program for minority owned companies. Then she left to enter the brave new world of Silicon Valley.

As marketing officer at Bridge Communications, 3-Com and finally Cisco Systems, Muther was part of the technology vanguard of the 1980's and early 90's. She was a natural at marketing, and the growth and success of the companies she worked for are a testament to her gifts. In her five years at Cisco, the company completed an IPO and annual revenue grew from \$25 million to more than \$1 billion. She also blazed a trail for women in technology; the chairman of Cisco crediting her with raising awareness of gender issues at the executive level.

While at Cisco, Muther put together a gift to Stanford to help bring more female faculty members to the school. When she left the company in 1994, it was to embark on a new journey: philanthropy. Drawing on her business background and technology experience, she established the Three Guineas Fund, which supports educational and professional opportunity for girls and women and helps nurture start-ups with female principals. At least a dozen companies helped by Three Guineas have grown up and left the nest.

Muther has served in leadership capacities for numerous organizations dedicated to helping women achieve social and professional equality and fulfillment - including Sarah Lawrence, where she was a member of the Board of Trustees from 1991 to 1992 and 1995 to 1999. She is also a member of the leadership council of the National Network of Women Philanthropists, and was a presenter at the 1999 White House Conference on Philanthropy.

"Cate is a wonderful example of the Sarah Lawrence ethos of seeking challenge and discovery, and of pursuing initiative as far as it will go, even on to unmapped terrain," notes the citation.

Justice, Equality and the Challenge of Disability

Date: Jun 18, 2002

News Release

July 26 is the anniversary of the Americans with Disability Act. While the 12 year old law has done much to advance the position of disabled people in society, there is much to be done to shape the way we think about the rights of the individual in terms of justice and equality.

Achievement of justice and equality for all remains an unfulfilled goal, in large part because of a "failure of traditional justice theory to do justice to disabled people," say philosophers Anita Silvers and Eva Kittay, organizers of a seminar sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities entitled Justice, Equality and the Challenge of Disability.



For the past few weeks, 15 U.S. scholars of philosophy, and other disciplines in the humanities as well as four guest international scholars are gathered at Sarah Lawrence College to examine recent theoretical work by leading moral philosophers while building an intellectual community that can influence the way we think about the relationship of justice and equality to disability and to lay the groundwork for changes in policy.

Through seminar readings and discussions, participants are developing their own perspectives on the topic, as well as considering how they can incorporate these views into their teaching. "Given the wide reach of disability in the general population, its neglect in the classroom is as striking as its absence in theories of justice," said Silvers and Kittay. "Once we recognize the prominence of disability in both the personal and public dimensions of so many lives, we see how important it is to reverse the omission of this subject in prevailing political and moral theory. An adequate theory of justice should speak to the situations of disabled as well as non-disabled people," they say.

Both Silvers and Kittay come to the subject from academic and personal experience. Both have enjoyed long careers and have gained national recognition for their philosophical scholarship.

When Anita Silvers graduated from Sarah Lawrence, she knew that disability would be an inescapable factor in limiting how she lived her life. Disabled by polio as a child, her best opportunity for access to education and other social goods was found in the climate of tolerance that prevailed then (and continues to do so) at Sarah Lawrence. During her college years, she and her classmates participated in events prompted by the blossoming of the civil rights movement. At the time of her graduation in 1962, however, medical, law and other professional schools still refused to consider that people as disabled as she could qualify as practitioners. As a consequence, her philosophical work in ethics, bioethics, and legal theory has been directed to exploring philosophical perspectives about the intolerance and social limitations that have shaped her life.

Eva Feder Kittay did not know that disability would soon enter her life when she graduated from Sarah Lawrence several years later. But in 1969 she gave birth to a daughter with serious physical and cognitive disabilities, who has inspired her important work on dependency and dependency workers.

The seminar culminates on July 26. "The humanities has much to contribute to our national understanding of justice, equality and disability," the organizers say.

Tom Roderick to Speak

Date: Jun 20, 2002

News Release

Tom Roderick will give the Thomas H. Wright Lecture titled "Keeping the Faith: Teaching and Social Responsibility in Challenging Times" as part of the 2002 Empowering Teachers Program at the Child Development Institute, Sarah Lawrence College. The lecture will take place on Monday, July 8 in Reisinger Concert Hall at 11:30 a.m., and is free and open to the public.

Roderick has served as executive director of Educators for Social Responsibility (Metropolitan Area) since 1983. Educators for Social Responsibility works towards helping people develop the convictions and skills to create a just, peaceful and democratic society. The organization provides concrete ways for educators and students to address social problems such as violence and racism and to work for a future based on respect and nonviolence. Commenting on the significance of Tom Roderick's address, Associate Director of the Child Development Institute, David Leonard said, "teaching is and should continue to be recognized as a democratic endeavor."



The annual Empowering Teachers Summer Institute at Sarah Lawrence College brings teachers from 25 school districts to Sarah Lawrence College to explore a variety of challenges facing children, families and schools in today's society. This year, the theme of the Summer Institute is "Processes of Change in Schools." The Summer Institute has received funding from General Foods U.S.A. and the NYNEX Foundation. The Thomas H. Wright lecture is funded by the Leon Lowenstein Foundation and individual contributors.

For more information or to RSVP, please call (914) 395-2412.

More High School Students attend Writers' Workshop

Date: Jun 27, 2002

News Release

This year, 21 students from Yonkers high schools have won scholarships to attend the Summer High School Writers' Workshop at Sarah Lawrence College, July 8-12, in an expanded scholarship program funded by the Greater New York Chapter of the Fulbright Association. For the second successive year, a competition was mounted by the Fulbright Association, a member organization of former Fulbright students, teachers and scholars, to encourage student writing on topics of international concern.



The Summer High School Writer's Workshop is attended by 70 students from the tri state area. Last year 10 students from Yonkers were awarded scholarships by the Fulbright Association. Pleased with the enthusiasm expressed from all the participants, Sarah Lawrence College, the New York chapter of the Fulbright Association and the Yonkers Public Schools decided to double the number of scholarships offered this year.

"It is important to us as a college based in Yonkers to have students who are close neighbors participating in the workshop," said Alexandra Soiseth, coordinator of the program. "We're delighted that the Fulbright scholarship students have grown two-fold this year."

Fulbright participants were selected on the strength of writing assignments, carried out this spring, that dealt with diversity, conflict resolution or global issues, issues of concern to an organization that fosters international understanding. "Particularly now that a writing section will soon be added to the SATs, we feel it is increasingly important to acknowledge the schools' emphasis on writing and reward the writing efforts of students while encouraging their creativity and thinking about these important issues," said Rosalba Del Vecchio, education committee chair of the Fulbright Association's Greater New York Chapter.

"We wanted to increase the number of students from Yonkers schools who would have the opportunity to learn from the writers, poets and theater artists who teach at Sarah Lawrence, a nationally renowned college for teaching writing and the arts," she said.

The five day workshop at Sarah Lawrence College, which is under the direction of the MFA program in Writing, offers young writers an opportunity to explore the creative process with skilled writers and artists, and to experience writing in a supportive environment. For additional information on this program, contact Alexandra Soiseth, Coordinator of the Workshop, at (914) 395-2371.

Following is a list of the Yonkers/Fulbright Association participants in the Sarah Lawrence College Summer High School Writers' Workshop, their schools and grades in September: Gorton High School: Selena Watkins, 10th, Belkis Ocon, 10th, Magdalena Janusz, 11th, Ryan Tippetts, 11th; Lincoln High School: Esmirna Torres, 11th, Alexis M. Finch, 11th, Aimee Baerga, 10th, Rachel Jackson, 11th; Roosevelt High School: Vilma Gjuraj, 10th, Michael Pascua, 10th, Shade Denman, 10th, Shreeja Mary Phillip, 10th; Saunders High School: Latha Jayakumar, 10th, SiMing Lee, 10th, Melissa Lebenon, 11th, Caitlin Stolarski, 11th; Yonkers Middle and High School: Laura Vargas, 10th, Rebecca Scheinberg, 10th, Matthew Hill, 11th, Josephine Alade, 12th; Yonkers Preparatory School: Terri Eisenberger, 11th.

Cygnus Ensemble Takes Residence

Date: Aug 1, 2002

News Release

The internationally acclaimed Cygnus Ensemble, one of New York City's most innovative and exciting new music chamber groups, will be in residence at Sarah Lawrence College throughout the 2002-2003 academic year.

"The Cygnus Ensemble continues in our long tradition of inviting resident ensembles and guest artists to bring unique and oftentimes cutting-edge perspectives to music and culture at the College," says Chester Biscardi, director of the Sarah Lawrence's music program.

Though structured somewhat like the "broken consort" of Elizabethan times - with strings (violin, cello, guitars) and winds (flute, oboe), Cygnus is dedicated to contemporary music, providing composers and audiences with unique ideas and sounds. Recognized for its inventiveness, Cygnus promotes the composition of new music involving the guitar, and has commissioned many new works by a diverse collection of American composers. Among the composers whose work they have commissioned and/or perform are Milton Babbitt, Stephen Wolpe, Charles Wuorinen and Anthony Braxton.



During their residency at Sarah Lawrence The Cygnus Ensemble will be working closely with students, eventually performing works written for them by Sarah Lawrence student composers. One particularly exciting opportunity Cygnus will make available to the students will be a private session with Milton Babbitt, one of the 20th century's most celebrated composers.

Guitarist, composer and founder of Cygnus, William Anderson, has been a long-time member of the College's Affiliate Artist faculty, noted Biscardi. "Now the entire ensemble will have the opportunity to work with student composers and chamber music ensembles as well as present concerts and master classes that will be of interest to the larger Sarah Lawrence, Westchester, and New York City communities," he says.

Two concerts, open to the public and featuring the ensemble's diverse repertoire, will highlight the year. The first, on December 4, will include world premiere performances of works by Babbitt and Wolpe. "This first concert promises to be mind-bending, deeply soul-searching, and musically exhilarating," Biscardi commented. The second concert will take place during the spring semester.

The group's concerts and recordings have received broad recognition for their distinctive artistry.

"This enterprising and supple group...presents a light, lively evening of music from contemporary American composers, with offshoots into the European past," wrote Paul Griffiths of the New York Times.

"...Cygnus' sound is infectious - light and clear, capable of both delicacy and drive, timbrally rich, transparent yet able to accommodate whatever degree complexity one might desire," wrote a reviewer for Musicplex.

And "The Cygnus Ensemble balances novel aplomb with a warm, inviting precision, lending cohesion and affability to this set of contemporary works," noted Tower Records.

The Cygnus Ensemble is a not-for-profit organization whose artistic direction is guided collectively by members of the group. Members are: Tara Helen O'Connor, flute; Oren Fader, guitar, electric guitar; Susannah Chapman, cello; Cal Wiersma, violin William Anderson, guitar, mandolin, banjo.

Program on Health Issues

Date: Aug 2, 2002

News Release

Sarah Lawrence College is offering a range of liberal arts seminars and public events on topics of health and illness during the month of October. Titled "October College 2002," the month-long series, is dedicated to helping people develop new knowledge in order gain a broader understanding of issues that concern them.

The seminars, non-credit mini courses, probe a variety of issues - including the ethics of healthcare, adolescent sexuality, cultural differences in death and dying, science facts/science fiction as portrayed in film, and changing definitions of disease - through literature, history, anthropology, film, psychology and science. The cost of each seminar, limited to 15 participants, is \$150 for four two hour meetings.

Public events, which are free, include lectures, film and multi-media presentations and a practical workshop on caring for the elderly.

"Sarah Lawrence College has put this program together in order to offer people in the community ways to enhance their critical thinking about issues they are confronting on a personal or professional level," said Amy Schragger Lang, director of the Center for Continuing Education at Sarah Lawrence, under whose auspices October College 2002 is being held.

For detailed information about the six seminars and the faculty who will teach them, as well as about the public events, please call (914) 395-2205.

Public Events Schedule:

Pulitzer-prize winner Laurie Garrett, author of *Betrayal of Trust: the Collapse of Global Public Health*
October 2, 6: 30 p.m.
Reisinger Concert Hall

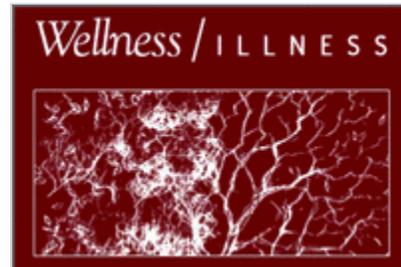
"Positive Exposure" a video/photographic presentation by photographer Rick Guidotti and epidemiologist Diane McLean celebrating the richness of genetic variation
October 14, 7 p.m.
Reisinger Concert Hall

"Caring for the Elderly" a practical workshop on negotiating the complexities of long-term planning, Medicare, and the health care system
October 18, afternoon (exact time to be announced)
Slonim House Living Room

Joan Jacobs Brumberg on "From Corsets to Body Piercing: An Historical Perspective on Female Adolescence"
October 22 1:30 p.m.
Titsworth Lecture Hall

Dates/time to be announced:

An award-winning documentary film, "Complaints of a Dutiful Daughter," about a daughter caring for a mother with alzheimers and panel discussion on a topic of current health interest at the Jacob Burns Film Center.



A lecture by Sarah Lawrence architectural historian Dominique Malaquais on the impact of hospital design on women patients.

Drew Cressman and Karen Rader Awarded National Science Foundation Grants

Date: Aug 29, 2002

News Release

Two Sarah Lawrence College faculty members, Drew Cressman and Karen Rader, have been awarded prestigious National Science Foundation Grants. Cressman's grant will be used to study a cellular protein crucial in the regulation of the human immune response. Rader's award will fund research exploring the historical relationship between academic and public understandings of science. Both awards will strengthen the study of science at the College.

Cressman's award of \$271,391 will commence in October 2002 and continue for 36 months. Awarded a Research at Undergraduate Institutions Grant, Cressman will investigate the critical role Class II Transactivator (CIITA) protein plays in the immune response in normal individuals. Babies lacking the cellular protein suffer from bare lymphocyte syndrome and cannot survive without a bone marrow transplant. Using sophisticated molecular biology techniques, Cressman's project will examine how the protein is regulated in cells. In a larger context, Cressman's work will facilitate a deeper understanding of the immune response, contributing to work on HIV and other immune system diseases.

The award will help Cressman equip and develop a molecular biology laboratory at Sarah Lawrence College, strengthening the study of science by making hands-on biological research a central part of the science curriculum. Individual students and teams will work on particular aspects of the project through undergraduate courses and summer internships. Cressman says the Sarah Lawrence College conference system, in which students meet individually with faculty members is ideally suited to supporting undergraduate biology research.

The recipient of an Irvington Institute fellowship for biomedical research, Cressman has long been engaged in studying the molecular basis of gene regulation and expression. He has already completed work on CIITA.

Awarded a \$307,000 five-year Career Award, Karen Rader's research project is aimed at understanding both how the public perception of science shapes the practice of scientific research, and how cutting-edge scientific research is communicated to the public. Career grants, which are highly competitive, are awarded to new faculty members who are most likely to become academic leaders in the future. Rader holds the Marilyn Simpson Chair for Science and Society at Sarah Lawrence.

Rader's project will study how life science displays in museums have changed from dioramas to interactive exhibitions, as a means of illuminating developments in biology. This will provide an historical perspective on science museums and curatorial practices, an important means by which the public is exposed to the life sciences. Rader says her work seeks to cultivate meaningful exchanges between scientists and the general public through public talks and the publication of her research findings.

Rader's award will facilitate the development of two new courses for students, which will help them to engage with the biological sciences by studying them in historical perspective. As part of the research project, students will have the opportunity to conduct fieldwork at local science museums. The grant will also fund a lecture series entitled "The Meaning of Public Science," open to the public, which will bring notable local and national scholars, artists and scientists to the Sarah Lawrence College campus in 2003-2004 and 2006-2007.

A recipient of an NSF grant for an earlier work, Rader's first book, *Making Mice: Standardizing Animals for American Biomedical Research, 1900-1965*, is forthcoming from Princeton University Press. Rader is also the recipient of a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship.

College Awarded Mellon Foundation Grant

Date: Sep 12, 2001

News Release

Sarah Lawrence College has been awarded an \$800,000 grant from The Mellon Foundation to support new faculty appointments in the humanities and social sciences over the next five years.

New faculty members will be designated "Mellon Scholars." Appointments will be made in Latin American History, Islamic History and Philosophy, Philosophy of Science, Classics and Linguistic Anthropology. "The opportunity to move forward in new and exciting curricular areas does much for the health and well-being of the College," noted college President Michele Myers.



Campbell Corner Prize Winners To Read

Date: Sep 17, 2001

News Release

Winners of the third Annual Campbell Corner Poetry and Essay Contest have been announced at Sarah Lawrence College. Campbell Corner is named after the late Joseph Campbell, mythologist and Sarah Lawrence faculty member, and celebrates the alliance of poetry and philosophy.

Jon C. Tribble has won the Campbell Corner Poetry Prize for 2001. Finalists were Larissa Szporluk and C. Mikal Oness. The 2001 Campbell Corner poetry prizewinners were selected from over 500 entries by a panel of distinguished poets and writers.

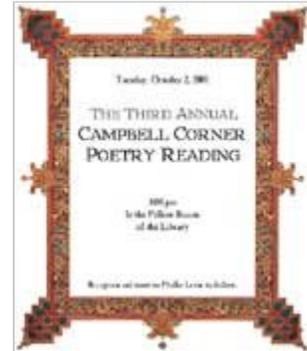
Kate Small won the 2001 Campbell Corner Essay Prize with "Getting Word." Second place went to D'Arcy Fallon's "Glazed Raised" and third place to Daniel John's "Dust to Dust, Ashes to Children." "Transmissions and Transgressions of the Holy" was the theme of last year's Campbell Corner essay contest.

Poets awarded 2001 Campbell Corner Prizes will read from their work on Tuesday, October 2 at 3 p.m. at the Esther Raushenbush library at Sarah Lawrence College. Reception and a toast to Phillis Levin, Director of the contest, will follow.

Dr Elfie Raymond, Joseph Campbell Professor in the Humanities at Sarah Lawrence College commented, "Jon Tribble's poem, 'The Spider's Surah' exemplifies the philosophy behind the Campbell Corner Competition."

Dr Raymond established the Campbell Corner initiative in 1999 to "use myth to link philosophy and poetry at the heart of the humanities."

For more information please call (914) 395-2411.



Kenneth Clark: A Brief Biography by Gina Philogene

Date: Oct 12, 2001

News Release

Professor Kenneth Clark is one of America's towering figures in the social sciences. He rose to prominence in 1946 when, in the best Lewinian tradition of action-research, he founded the legendary Northside Child Development Center in Harlem. His work at the center led him to become the NAACP's psychological expert, a role that allowed him to argue convincingly that segregation was harmful to the self-image of people of African descent. His research was cited by the Supreme Court in justification of its landmark decision *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954) to desegregate American public schools.

During the 1960's, Professor Clark became engaged in community activism in Harlem. As the founder and principal figure in the HARYOU-ACT program (an outgrowth of Northside) and the metropolitan Applied Research Center, his advocacy won the admiration of President Lyndon Johnson who quoted him as the model for the "war on poverty." This placed Clark at the center of the American discourses on race.

Professor Clark was the first African American to receive a permanent professorship at the City College of New York (1942-1975), to be a member of the New York State Board of Regents (1966-1986), and to serve as president of the American Psychological Association (1970-1971). In addition, he is the recipient of numerous honorary degrees, winner of the NAACP's Spingard Medal (1961), and the Kurt Lewin Memorial Award by the Society for Psychological Study of Social Issues.

His books include *Prejudice and Your Child* (1955), *Dark Ghetto* (1965), *A Possible Reality* (1972), *Pathos of Power* (1974), and *The Negro American* (coedited with Talcott Parsons in 1966).



Kenneth Clark: Program of Panel Discussions

Date: Oct 13, 2001

News Release

Part-I: Kenneth Clark

Friday, October 12, 2001

Opening comments
2:00PM-2:30PM

Gina Philogène (Sarah Lawrence College)
Michele Myers (Sarah Lawrence College)

Honoring Kenneth Clark
Brief ceremony to honor and thank Professor Kenneth Clark for his contribution to psychology and our society as a whole.

Film screening
2:30PM-3:30PM
"Journey to Little Rock"
Maria Shin (Northeast Productions)

Keynote address
Jean Trickey (Little Rock Nine, Anti-racist activist)

Coffee Break
3:30PM-4:00PM



Part-II: Black Psychologies as Cultural Analyses

Panel discussion: Creating an Identity
4-6:00 p.m.

Chair: Linwood Lewis (Sarah Lawrence College)

Robert Sellers (University of Michigan - Ann Arbor)
"Being Black In America:" The Role of African American Racial Identity as a Coping Against Racial Discrimination.

William Cross (CUNY Graduate Center)
The Influence of Kenneth Clark's Work on the Development of the Nigrescence Theory.

Gina Philogene (Sarah Lawrence College)
The Interplay of Race and Culture

Claude Steele (Stanford University)
How Stereotypes Shape Intellectual Identity and Performance

Discussion
6:00PM-6:45PM

Saturday, October 13, 2001

Panel discussion: Racism and its Cultural Manifestations
9:30AM-11:30AM
Chair: Ferdinand Jones (Brown University)

James Jones (University of Delaware)
TRIOS: A Model for Coping with the Universal Context of Racism

James Jackson (University of Michigan - Ann Arbor)
From 'Dark Ghetto' to the National Survey of American Life: Context and the Social Psychology of Black Americans

Sandra Graham (University of California - Los Angeles)
Gender, Ethnicity, and the Development of Achievement Values

Jim Sidanius (University of California - Los Angeles)
The Interactive Interface between Gender and Ethnic Discrimination: A Social Dominance and Evolutionary Perspective

Discussion
11:30AM-12:15PM

Part-III: Lessons from our History

Panel discussion: Our Common Destiny
1:30PM-3:30PM
Chair: Barbara Schechter (Sarah Lawrence College)

Thomas Pettigrew (University of California - Santa Cruz)
Racial Integration Today: Revisiting Kenneth Clark's Vision

Fathali Moghaddam (Georgetown University)
The Enigma of Third-World Change

Kay Deaux (CUNY Graduate Center)
Immigration and the Color Line

Fran Cherry (Carleton University)
A Life at the Center of Change: Kenneth Clark and Action Research.

Discussion
3:30PM-4:15PM

Coffee Break
4:15PM-4:45PM

General Discussion
4:45PM-5:30PM

Sponsored in part by The Donald C. Samuel Fund for Economics and Politics

Kenneth Clark: Conference on Race and Identity

Date: Oct 16, 2001

News Release

Sarah Lawrence College hosted a conference on race and identity October 12-13, 2001, which brought together prominent African American psychologists. The conference, *Race and Identity: Perspectives on American Society*, was designed to clarify what we know about race and to assess its impact on American culture as well as the psychological make-up of American citizens. The conference honored the work of Kenneth Clark whose research on the development of self-consciousness and racial identification in Negro children played a crucial role in the Supreme Court's landmark 1954 decision *Brown v. Board of Education*. Dr. Clark was awarded an honorary doctorate by the College.



Kenneth Clark was the first African American to receive tenure at the City College of New York, to be elected president of the American Psychological Association, and to serve as a member of the New York State Board of Regents. Professor Clark gained a national reputation as the founder and director of Harlem's Northside Center for Child Development.

"This conference gives us a forum to rethink the question of race in American culture and at the same time to reassess the commitment of social psychology to this issue," said Gina Philgène, coordinator of the conference and member of the psychology faculty at Sarah Lawrence College. "Fifty years after the launching of a very long process aimed at desegregating the culture, it is appropriate for us to celebrate Kenneth Clark and to honor him for the crucial role he played in setting this process in motion."

"Black scholars in psychology have had a lot to say on the subject of race and each of the invited participants has made important contributions. However, they have not previously had a chance to share and discuss their work with each other in a formal conference setting," said Philgène.

The conference was sponsored by the American Psychological Association - Science Directorate, Sarah Lawrence College, and The Donald C. Samuel Fund for Economics and Politics.

At the opening on Friday, October 12 at 2 pm, Professor Clark was awarded an honorary degree by Sarah Lawrence College. This was followed by a short documentary film "A Journey to Little Rock" and a keynote address by anti-racist activist Jean Trickey who was one of the "Little Rock Nine."

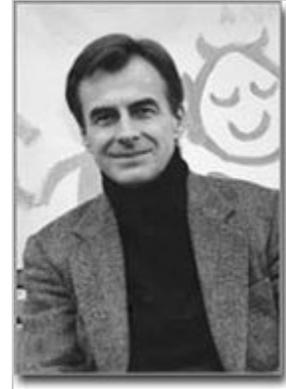
—Sponsored in part by The Donald C. Samuel Fund for Economics and Politics

Dr. Roger A. Hart Gives Longfellow Lecture

Date: Nov 13, 2001

News Release

Dr. Roger A. Hart, Professor in the Ph.D. Psychology Program of the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, will speak on "Children on the Cultural Front Line: The Challenging Vision of Children As Active Citizens," on Friday, December 7 at 4 p.m. in Reisinger Concert Hall. Coming out of eight years of work with UNICEF and the Save the Children Alliance, Hart will address the importance of children's voices in community development in the United States and the developing world. Concerned with the theory and research related to the planning and design of children's environments, Dr. Hart's recent focus has been on fostering greater participation of young people in their communities. David Leonard, Associate Director of the Sarah Lawrence College Child Development Institute, remarked, "At a time when we're thinking about what it means to live in a democratic society, we should also consider the importance of our children and how their concerns and rights should be respected and included."



Dr. Roger Hart is a Co-Director of the Children's Environments Research Group. He is the author of publications including *Children's Participation: From Tokenism to Citizenship* (with UNICEF), and *Cities for Children: Children's Rights, Poverty and Urban Management*. With the Save the Children Alliance he co-authored *The Children's Clubs of Nepal: A Democratic Experiment*.

The lecture is free and open to the public. For more information, please call (914) 395 2411.

Photographs by Dorothy Handelman

Date: Dec 19, 2001

News Release

An exhibition of Sarah Lawrence College alumna Dorothy Handelman's photographic work will trace thirty-one years of her development as a photographer. Fascinated by photography as a teenager, Handelman continued to work in the medium during her time at Sarah Lawrence and from graduation has worked as a professional photographer, capturing a variety of images and themes. The exhibition will run from February 2nd until March 3rd in the Esther Raushenbush Library. For more information and library hours please call (914) 395-2470.

Viewing her images "as a diary of surroundings and relationships," Handelman's early pictures were experiments with the content of images. Handelman went on to work in advertising photography for companies such as Hanna Andersson, and specialized for a time photographing hosiery and leg wear for Hue. Since then, her work has appeared in many books, including children's books and most recently The Moosewood Restaurant New Classics. Alongside her work as a professional photographer in publishing, Handelman has taken many personal photographs of friends and relations, some of which form part of the exhibition. "This exhibition is an opportunity to tell the story of my love for the medium," Handelman says.



Suzanne M. Murphy to Lead Capital Campaign

Date: Jan 15, 2002

News Release

Suzanne M. Murphy is Sarah Lawrence College's new vice president for college resources. Murphy comes to the small liberal arts college for men and women from Marymount Manhattan College. As chief fundraiser for Marymount Manhattan since 1995, Murphy served there most recently as vice president of external affairs and enrollment services, having held various other positions since 1987. Murphy will lead Sarah Lawrence College in a new \$75 million capital campaign to be completed by 2004. The campaign, "The Sarah Lawrence Difference: Preserve it. Enrich it," will provide funds to support the College's unique pedagogy of donning and conference work and 9:1 student to faculty ratio. It will also fund the building of the new Monika A. and Charles A. Heimbold, Jr. Visual Arts Center being designed by Polshek Partnership LLC and scheduled to open in the Fall of 2004.



Murphy holds B.A. from Marymount Manhattan, an M.A. in organizational psychology and an Ed. M in education from Teachers College, Columbia University, where she is currently an Ed.D. ABD candidate in organization and leadership in higher education. She succeeds Jim Asp, who left the college in July for a position at Memorial Sloan-Kettering. President Michele Myers noted that the new vice president's "experience, exceptional management talent, energy, motivation and personal qualities will be key in continuing our success in meeting our campaign goal."

Health Advocacy in Cuba

Date: Feb 1, 2002

News Release

Sarah Lawrence College faculty, students and alumnae of the graduate program in Health Advocacy recently returned from a study visit to Cuba where they learned about health care in a country where, they say, the health of the country's citizens is one of two domestic priorities.



Program director Marsha Hurst, HAP student Cathey Bienkowski, who helped organize the visit, and their colleagues were impressed with the comprehensiveness and innovativeness of Cuba's health care system. They were particularly taken with the health advocacy role played by the local family doctor-nurse team, a fixture in every neighborhood. For example, in addition to their primary and preventive care responsibilities, family doctors and nurses provide education, follow-up care for patients with chronic conditions, coordination of in-home medical and nursing services, and they accompany families to specialists and the emergency room when needed. "A lot of advocacy concerns here are part of the system there," explained Hurst.

The visit was particularly good in viewing the interaction between the political and health care systems, said Hurst. In Cuba, health care is all public health. There is no separation between personal health and medical care and public health, not surprising for a country where "everything is about public policy." Bienkowski tells of a neighborhood doctor who went from house to house to be sure families removed hurricane water from their back yards as a preventive measure against Dengue fever.

The Health Advocacy program will use what the group learned to broaden its approach to teaching such topics as policy and history, ethics and advocacy. With an increasing interest in developing international perspectives particularly with regard to access to care, informed consent in research programs, bioethics and community health, new curriculum areas are likely to follow.

Hurst says the Health Advocacy Program is considering bringing together other health care groups who have been to Cuba to compare experiences, organize future trips and in various ways, expand an advocacy network of professionals interested in learning from the Cuban system.

Commencement 2002

Date: Feb 12, 2002

News Release

Friday, May 24
10:00 am — Westlands Lawn

Please take a moment to read these helpful guidelines for Sarah Lawrence's 73rd annual Commencement. If you have any questions or concerns, you are welcome to contact the Office of College Events at (914) 395-2412. We look forward to seeing you on May 24!



Commencement seating

Space at Commencement is very limited: we can accommodate four guests for each graduate, so each graduate will receive only four invitations. The invitations will include tickets and will be required for admittance to the ceremony. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Graduates will be notified when they may pick up their invitations in the Office of College Events to distribute as they wish; generally, they are available during the last week in April. We strongly urge you to arrive early on the 24th to secure your seat.

Special seating is provided for guests with disabilities. Please contact the Office of College Events at (914) 395-2412.

Photographs/Video

So that families can have an individual keepsake portrait of their children — photographed in close up as they receive their diplomas — the College has made arrangements with Island Photography of Glen Cove, New York. The firm will be in contact with each graduate with a mail-order form in late June. There is no obligation to purchase the photographs.

A professional videographer will be taping the entire ceremony from an excellent vantagepoint. Please contact the Office of Communications to obtain a copy.

We know how important it is for families to have photographs and/or videos of important events like this one, and how disruptive it can be for guests when — in so intimate a space — many in the audience are taking photos during the ceremony. We hope that you will find these professional arrangements to be a useful alternative.

Parking

On Commencement Day, you may park along Kimball Avenue or in any Sarah Lawrence parking lot. However, parking on any side street may result in a ticket from the City of Yonkers. College Security will direct you to parking areas when you arrive on the campus. We strongly suggest that you arrive as early as possible on the 24^h to secure a parking space, or consider taking other transportation.

Commencement Week activities/Dormitory closings

Traditionally, Commencement Week is a wonderful opportunity for graduates to relax and spend time with their friends and faculty at events like the Senior-Don Dinner and the Senior Lecture. Please note that, with the exception of Commencement itself, all events scheduled during this week are for students only.

Seniors are welcome to remain in their dormitories during the week, but please keep in mind that all students must vacate their rooms before 8:00 p.m. on Friday, May 24th. There can be no exceptions.

Area accommodations

Sarah Lawrence College does not have any relationship with the businesses listed — the list is provided for your convenience only. Please call hotels directly for reservations and directions.

New York City accommodations

You may choose to stay at a hotel in the New York City area, as Sarah Lawrence is only a 30-minute train ride from midtown Manhattan. Trains to the college are on the Harlem branch of Metro-North Railroad. The trains run approximately every half hour to and from Grand Central Station, and it is only a short taxi-cab ride from the Bronxville station to the College. For train information, fares and schedules, call Metro-North Railroad at 1-800-638-7646, or visit their Web site: <http://www.mta.nyc.ny.us/mnr/index.html> » [<http://www.mta.nyc.ny.us/mnr/index.html>]. If you are driving, allow 30 — 45 minutes during non-rush hour periods, and more during peak commuting hours..

\$75 Million Fundraising Campaign

Date: Feb 18, 2002

News Release

Sarah Lawrence College has announced a new \$75 million fundraising campaign: "The Sarah Lawrence Difference: Preserve it. Enrich it." A kick-off event will be held March 6 at the Manhattan home of College trustee Ann Tenenbaum and her husband Thomas Lee. A series of small events, taking place over the next few months, will extend the campaign launch to other locations around the country.



At the heart of the campaign is the need to support the costly, unique pedagogy that provides for regular one-on-one conferences between students and their teachers and frequent individual student meetings with a faculty don (academic advisor.) Since its founding in the 1920s this system has been the hallmark of the small liberal arts college for men and women, consistently ranked first among national liberal arts colleges for low faculty-student ratio in U.S. News and World Report's America's Best Colleges. "The Sarah Lawrence mission - education in the singular - has never been more vital, more timely, or more in demand," says Michele Tolela Myers, president of the College. The campaign will culminate in 2004 in concert with the College's 75th anniversary celebrations.

The campaign's goal is to raise \$12.5 million through the annual Fund for Sarah Lawrence, increase endowment by \$20 million, invest \$12.5 million in strategic initiatives that include faculty salaries, financial aid for students, technology and facilities and allocate \$30 million for building construction and renovation.

A new 60,000-square-foot visual arts center will represent an innovative, interdisciplinary vision for the way arts are taught. The centerpiece of the building program, it will alleviate an academic and social space shortage and allow for increased curriculum demands in the areas of photography and filmmaking. Cross-disciplinary approaches and the integration of the creative arts within the curriculum are central elements of the Sarah Lawrence system.

Groundbreaking for the Monika A. and Charles A. Heimbald, Jr. Visual Arts Center is planned for May, 2002. "We have raised almost \$45 million to date for this campaign in its silent phase," says new vice president of College Resources, Suzanne M. Murphy, who is confident that the campaign goal will be reached on schedule.

Orchestra in Concert

Date: Feb 25, 2002

News Release

This Spring's orchestral concert, "Graduating Seniors from the Sarah Lawrence College Orchestra Present Special Projects," will showcase accomplished student composers and performers. The concert will take place on Tuesday, March 12 at 8 p.m. in Reisinger Concert Hall and is free and open to the public.

Conductor Martin Goldray views the concert as a way of highlighting some of the unique interests and talents of graduating orchestra members. "Works presented in this concert will cover a wide range of music, from mainstream repertory to the unconventional," Goldray said. Orchestra members featured in this concert include Kristin Jarvis, who will play *Elegie for Cello and Piano* by Faure while her shadow puppet play is performed. Speaking about her upcoming performance, Jarvis said that as a cellist, she has continually returned to Faure's *Elegie*. "Fragments of the theme repeat almost obsessively, like a distant memory, at once ungraspable and resonant," she said. Jarvis was inspired by the music to choreograph a puppet play, attempting in the process to "meld musical language with the visual language of performance." In addition to Jarvis's performance, Mary Martha Kobus will screen a video she has made to music by Sarah Lawrence College faculty composer George Tsontakis. Like Jarvis, Kobus worked from the music to create video images. Having searched for a suitable piece for some time, she listened to Tsontakis's music and it struck her immediately as powerful and energetic. The piece, she said, was "both tonal and contemporary and narrative and exciting."



Other performers include trombonist Emily Scott, who will perform the premiere of a chamber concerto, *Serenade on a Theme of Ludwig Senfl*, written by student composer James Welsch, and flutist Susanna Quilter who will play the *Telemann Suite in A minor*. The concert will conclude with a work that is one of the classics of the twentieth century chamber music repertory: Olivier Messiaen's *Quartet for the End of Time*, performed by Melinda Rice, violin, Elizabeth Gustin, clarinet, Colette Alexander, cello and Martin Goldray, piano.

For reservations and information please call (914) 395-2411.

Judith Jenya on How One Person Can Make a Difference

Date: Mar 11, 2002

News Release

Founder and Executive Director of the Global Children's Organization, Judith Jenya, will speak on volunteering, planning and activism, on Thursday, April 4th at 5:30 p.m. in the Library Pillow Room. The talk is supported by the Sarah Lawrence College Global Studies faculty, and the Offices of Community Partnerships and Service Learning, and Student Affairs. The International Relations Committee of The League of Women Voters is co-sponsoring the talk which is free and open to the public.

Striving to heal children traumatized by war and violence, Judith Jenya founded the Global Children's Organization in 1992. The organization regularly holds a peace-building summer camp for children who were affected by the conflicts in the Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo. In 1999, the organization founded a summer camp in Donegal, Ireland, for Catholic and Protestant children from Northern Ireland. The programs and summer camps encourage children to explore creative ways to resolve disputes while living in diverse communities.

Judith Jenya is a teacher, social worker and attorney who has worked with various groups in countries including Japan, Bosnia, Croatia and New Zealand to help change conditions for children.

Springboard 2002

Date: Mar 12, 2002

News Release

New Plays - New Talent - New Projects
New Visions for a New Audience

Come celebrate the tradition of nurturing new artists at SLC during this week-long informal look at new plays, Performance pieces, reconstructions, musical and dance pieces

Cap 21 Stage
15 West 28th Street, 2nd floor, NYC
(Between 5th & Broadway)
By Subway: #6, N or R to 28th Street

Open Seating/No Admission Charge

For reservations call: (212)539-7546



Monday, 4/15

8PM — Hosted by Edward Allan Baker and Doug MacHugh '00 MFA
BABY BOOMER BITS: short plays from Edward Allan Baker's New Playwrights Workshop

Tuesday, 4/16

8PM — Hosted by Ernest Abuba and Kevin Confoy
From Kevin Confoy's *The Play's the Thing*, three scenes
From Ernest Abuba's Production for Directors:

A scene from *THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD* written & directed by Nora Long
LOST BOYS, a musical by Andrew Rothschild, directed by Brian Schneider

Wednesday, 4/17

8PM (Special Alumnae reception starting at 7:00PM)
Hosted by Shirley Kaplan, Sally Davis, Jed Distler '78 and Peter Morris '01 MFA
NEW VOICES, NEW MATERIAL Original Work from Shirley Kaplan & Jed Distler's Musical Theatre Lab, directed by SuzAnne Wilson & ensemble.
THE PROCESS: ICONOLOGIE OF FIBERS from Ernest Abuba's Painters' Theatre Class

Thursday, 4/18

8 PM Hosted by Dave McRee and Sarah Kate Robbins '01 MFA
CELEBRATING DIVERSITY, a collaborative project produced by Lyrallen Kaye and directed by Amir Levi
WHILE THE MASTER SLEEPS... A dance performance choreographed by Amir Levi
SPELL #7 performed by Yvette Feuer from Michael Early's African American Theatrical Aesthetic
SEVEN VERSES directed by Sari Rotskoff from Kym Moore's Collaborative Techniques
Performance piece by Tosha Brown, directed by Sarah Kate Robbins '01 MFA

Friday, 4/19

8PM Hosted by Paul Austin and Rob Decina '94 MFA

TWO SOLOS, TWO MAIDS: from Paul Austin's Actors/Directors, 3 one acts as works-in-progress:

MEDEA REDUX by La Bute;

DEAF DAY by Ayvazian,

THE MAIDS by Genet

Saturday, 4/20

2PM ONE FINE DAY: A staged reading of a new black comedy by Peter Morris '01 MFA

8PM Hosted by Christine Farrell and Amanda Melson '97

VIRGIN STAND-UP from Christine Farrell's Comedy Workshop

Sunday, 4/21

7PM — BAG OF MIXES hosted by Allen Lang & Michael Raymen '79

HOP 2, a performance from Liz Milwe's Dance for Theater

PINK ARMADA, a performance piece by Julia Lingenfelter, directed by Jennifer Ortega

A BOX ABOVE THE WORLD by Sean O'Connor, directed by Patricia Henritze

ALBATROSS written and directed by Kym Moore

DIVIDE & CONQUER (a scene from) written and directed by Kym Moore

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE written and performed by Patricia Henritze

WE NEED AN ENEMY by Jessamyn Fiore, directed by Marie Reynolds

Pre-performance reception for each program; come early and toast the alum hosts!

Program subject to change. Call (212)539-7546 to confirm schedule and programming.

Right2Fight

Date: Apr 1, 2002

News Release

On April 27th, Sarah Lawrence College will host "[Right2Fight](http://www.molodiez.org/right2fight/) » [<http://www.molodiez.org/right2fight/>]," a cross-disciplinary event on the theme of police violence. For an entire day, from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., artists and human rights activists will come together to address this issue of world-wide concern. In presentations and performances, through installations, poetry, graffiti, web-based art, posters, films and live music, they will express a wide range of views, reflecting multiple approaches and backgrounds.



According to the organizers, "Right2Fight" is not an indictment of all police officers; it does, however, condemn the brutality to which all too many law enforcement communities resort. Post-9/11, the organizers hold, it is more important than ever to combat racism, xenophobia, prejudice and the abuses of power to which they lead.

"Right2Fight" showcases words and works by women and men united in their dedication to fighting police violence. Contributors to the event include: Pam Africa (Philadelphia), Antibalas (Brooklyn), The Ella Baker Center for Human Rights (New York), Chris Bratton (Chicago), Robbie Conal (Los Angeles), Adam de Croix (Brooklyn), Dee Curry (New York), Graff (New York), Kim Grier (New York), Nicholas Heyward, Sr. (New York), Ashley Hunt (Brooklyn), Emily Jacir (Bethlehem/Brooklyn), Carol Jacobsen (Ann Arbor), Richard Kamler (San Francisco), Jared Katsiane (Boston), Deborah Kelly (Sydney), Goddy Leye (Amsterdam/Yaounde), Malam (Douala), Bradley McCallum and Jacqueline Tarry (Brooklyn), Julia Meltzer and Liz Canner (Los Angeles/Boston), No One Is Illegal (Germany), Sally O'Brien (New York City), October 22 Coalition to Stop Police Brutality, Repression and the Criminalization of a Generation (New York), Pass-Fix (Munich), Horit Herman Peled (Tel Aviv), Jenny Perlin (Brooklyn), Picture Projects (New York City), Lesego Rampolokeng (Soweto), Oliver Ressler (Vienna), Louis Reyes Rivera (New York), Martha Rosler (Brooklyn), Jayce Salloum (Vancouver), Dread Scott (Brooklyn), Stolen Lives, Trebor Scholz (Berlin/Brooklyn), Gregory Sholette (Chicago), DJ SKI HI (Bronx), Stolen Lives Project (USA), Herve Yamguen (Douala), Herve Youmbi (Douala), Juanita Young (New York).

The organizers of "Right2Fight" are Dominique Malaquais, an urban historian who works in Central Africa and teaches at Sarah Lawrence College, and Trebor Scholz, an East Berlin-born, Brooklyn-based interdisciplinary artist and curator who practices in Europe and the Americas.

For more information please go to <http://www.molodiez.org/right2fight/> » [<http://www.molodiez.org/right2fight/>] or call (914) 395-2411.

Theatre Program Presents Springboard 2002

Date: May 8, 2002

News Release

Students, faculty and alumnae/i of Sarah Lawrence College will present a series of new play readings and projects in "Springboard 2002," an annual, weeklong theatre festival held in New York City. The performances will run from Monday April 15th through Sunday April 21st at Cap 21 Stage, 15 West 28th Street, 2nd Floor, Manhattan. All performances are free and open to the public.

"Springboard 2002 will give the community, students and faculty an informal look at new work, performance pieces, reconstructions and music and dance pieces in a new venue," explained Shirley Kaplan, the Director of the Sarah Lawrence College Theatre Program and Artistic Director of Springboard 2002. Works will include new plays including "One Fine Day," a black comedy by recent alumnus Peter Morris whose "The Rose and the Ring" was performed to widespread critical acclaim in London last December, and "We Need an Enemy," a play written from first-hand experiences of the conflict in the Middle East by senior student Jessamyn Fiore. The program is designed to give noted Sarah Lawrence College alumnae/i and graduate and undergraduate students opportunities for interaction, allowing theatrical work to be carried out in the spirit of collaboration, Kaplan said.

For a program, please call (212) 539-7546 or [click here](#).

Remembering Irving Goldman

Date: May 15, 2002

News Release

The following was written by Jody Shenn with contributions by Judith Schwartzstein

Irving Goldman, an anthropologist whose preoccupation with understanding systems of thought from the viewpoints of the peoples who produced them yielded some of the field's most influential insights into religion and status, passed away after a period of declining health on Sunday, April 7th. He was 90.



For a man who claimed the first book he ever drew from a New York public library on a children's card was about the famous 19th century explorer David Livingston, it was a life fittingly filled with adventures, both physical and intellectual, among primitive peoples during perhaps the last period before outside influences left their native cultures forever unrecognizable.

Many of Goldman's ethnographic studies -- stemming from his fieldwork in British Columbia, Oregon, Mexico and among the Cubeo Indians of the Northwest Amazon as well his reinterpretations of earlier anthropological works -- are now considered classics. Among the most widely-known are "The Cubeo: Indians of the Northwest Amazon," his extremely detailed account of the nuances of the tribe's life and religion, "The Mouth of Heaven," his inventive reinterpretation of the mountains of existing texts concerning the potlatches of the Kwakiutl of British Columbia, and "Ancient Polynesian Society," his ground-breaking analysis of the region's status systems.

Stephen Hugh-Jones, a noted anthropologist at the University of Cambridge said of Goldman that his "ability to talk about, understand, and portray through an analysis that reveals but never compromises the life, thought, reality and emotional tenor of the people he was writing about...is why The Cubeo remains the very best of all the books on the Vaupés."

"Irving Goldman believed that one could build theory out of the questions posed by ethnography itself - in other words the basis of all anthropology was paying close attention to others' points of view," said Enid Shildkrout, chair and curator of the division of anthropology at The Museum of Natural History in New York.

Goldman's life path was the paradigm of a successful career in academia in the 20th century. After graduating from Brooklyn College as an unenthusiastic pre-med student, he went on to study under Franz Boas, the seminal figure in American anthropology, at Columbia University, where he was one of Boas' final Ph.D. students in the early 1930s. Goldman's works, based upon the same belief that specific aspects of native cultures can only be understood as part of a whole, carried on the giant's legacy and helped to cement his importance to the field.

Among his early work before striking out on his own in the field, Goldman contributed four chapters to a 1937 book, *Cooperation and Competition Among Primitive Peoples*, by Margaret Mead, a world-renowned colleague who eventually ceded to Goldman, with the publication of his ground-breaking book on Polynesian status systems which she reviewed, a preeminence on the region.

After a brief stint as an assistant professor at Columbia and the publication of his thesis on the Alkatcho Carrier Indians of British Columbia, Goldman entered Nelson Rockefeller's Bureau of Latin American Research as an analyst during World War II. When drafted after the U.S. joined the war, he was assigned to do intelligence work at the Office of Strategic Services as an expert on Latin America, where the U.S. feared Nazism could spread.

Like many other scholars, his work for the U.S. continued for a short time after the war's end, until Ruth Benedict, a well-known anthropologist at Columbia, "rescued" him from a position within the State Department, as he later said, and helped him get a teaching position at Sarah Lawrence College, a progressive liberal arts college in Yonkers, New York.

Goldman taught at Sarah Lawrence from 1947 until 1981 - serving on the Board of Trustees as well as on numerous faculty committees that helped shape the college's direction as it grew from an undergraduate college of some 250 women to the coeducational institution of about 1,000 undergraduates and 300 graduate students that it is today-and at the New School for Social Research in New York City from 1980 to 1987.

At Sarah Lawrence his teaching focused on the development of a fresh perspective on problems of modern society through a comparative study of human cultures, and an anthropological approach to understanding political, social, economic and cultural problems in some of the world's underdeveloped areas. Many of his students, including Enid Schildkrout, who, in addition to her role at the American Museum of Natural History, teaches at Columbia University and CUNY, would later make their own contributions to the field. "I would never have been an anthropologist without Irving's encouragement and inspiration" she said.

As the only anthropologist on the faculty at the time, Goldman provided the animating vision for anthropology at Sarah Lawrence said Dean of the College Barbara Kaplan. He was central in expanding the College's offerings, in choosing new faculty members, and in building the library collection. A master teacher, he understood the college deeply, she said.

Sarah Lawrence College Mathematics professor Joseph Woolfson, a long time friend and colleague, said of Goldman. "To his colleagues, Goldman represented the most rigorous standard of scholarship in Anthropology. However, his interests went far beyond that and in the highest humanistic tradition were truly inter-disciplinary. Although he was responsible for inspiring a generation of anthropologists, what he valued the most was his contribution to the liberal arts education of all of his students."

Goldman spoke at the College on a number of important occasions including the 1965 inauguration of President Esther Raushenbush. Calling on the wisdom of his words, current president Michele Toleda Myers quoted him at her own inauguration in 1998 on the importance of inaugurations and their relevance to learning "...strengthening and renewing the old and discovering the new..."

Because of his past work for the government and his membership in the American branch of the communist party from 1936 to 1942 -- before he became disillusioned with communism after the Soviet Union's brief coziness with Nazi Germany -- Goldman was forced to testify before a Senate committee which "investigated" the ties of many academics to communism during the height of McCarthyism and its communist witch hunts.

He admitted to being a member of the party, but refused to name the names of others who he knew had also been members. Instead of taking his Fifth Amendment right to avoid self-incrimination, he invoked his First Amendment rights to free speech, a riskier tactic only a few brought before the Jenner committee tried. However, his righteous stubbornness prevailed, and he suffered no negative results from the episode.

As an ethnographer concerned with describing cultures from a native understanding, Goldman often relied on long interviews and friendly talking sessions with the people whose cultures he studied, especially during his fieldwork among the Cubeo along the Vaupes in Columbia.

This produced several unexpected outcomes. One was his unintentionally motivating a young Cubeo boy, Orlando Rodriguez, to study anthropology years later because of Goldman's exchanges with his grandparents. Another was the surprising resurgence in the late 1970s of certain aspects of Cubeo culture - such as the performance of mourning rites - that had disappeared since the end of his original visit with the tribe in 1940.

Goldman's further discussions about them with his former, and now aged, informants, became the subject of his soon-to-be-published final book. Referring to the forthcoming book, Cambridge's Hugh-Jones remarked about Goldman that "no one else has managed to present Amerindian religion so well," that Goldman's last book is "a superb South American companion to his North American *The Mouth of Heaven*."

Saddened by his death, Hugh-Jones noted that "Anthropology has lost one of its really original researchers, writers and thinkers; we Vaupésologists have lost our eldest brother and head of our sib; the Cubeo have lost someone who had become one of their own."

Goldman was born September 2, 1911 in a small apartment over a butcher's shop in Brooklyn to Louis Goldman, a carpenter born in Russia, and his wife Golda, who died before he was six-years-old. He had three brothers who died in a plague epidemic in Russia before the family came to America, and a sister, Bess. His wife of more than fifty years, Hannah, passed away in 1986. He is survived by three nieces and Sonya Shenn, his partner for the last decade of his life.

Teodora Ana Mihai Wins Thomas J. Watson Fellowship

Date: Apr 19, 2002

News Release

Sarah Lawrence College senior Teodora Ana Mihai has won a prestigious Thomas J. Watson Fellowship to study Rrom (Gypsy) Identity in the 21st Century. Mihai's Fellowship will take her to Hungary, Germany, France, Spain, Argentina and India.

The idea for Mihai's project took shape during her participation in the Sarah Lawrence College in Florence academic year abroad program. While in Florence, Mihai became involved with Amengia, an association of Rrom and Italian youth that aims to promote the understanding of Rrom culture. Building on this experience, Mihai's Watson Fellowship year will include work with organizations that are closely involved with Rrom communities in each of the countries she visits. Mihai hopes to experience the culture and gain a deeper understanding of the challenges Rroma face in contemporary society. "Ultimately, I trust I will be able to use this experience to help address the widespread prejudice against the Rroma," Mihai said.



Nearly 1000 students from 50 selective private colleges and universities applied for one of 60 fellowships. The Thomas J. Watson Fellowship Program annually awards fellowships to college seniors to pursue independent research projects while traveling outside the United States for one year after their graduation. Students must first be nominated by their college or university, and then compete on a national basis. The fellows each receive \$22,000. The program aims to identify prospective leaders, allowing them to develop their independence and to become world citizens.

Orchestra Plays Classical Jazz

Date: Apr 23, 2002

News Release

The Sarah Lawrence College Orchestra's final concert will explore the influence of jazz on some of the most important twentieth century classical composers. The concert will take place on Tuesday, April 30 in Reisinger Concert Hall at 8 p.m., and is free and open to the public.

Including works by Copland, Stravinsky and Milhaud, and two songs by Gershwin, the program will give a glimpse of the musical period following World War I. Conductor Martin Goldray says that in the post-war period artists wanted to cast off the remnants of late nineteenth century Romantic style, and that the syncopations and hard-edged style of Ragtime and early jazz were ideally suited to the new sensibility. "Although Copland and Stravinsky's works from this time are fully composed concert pieces, both composers have appropriated some of the harmonies and stylistic traits of jazz," Martin Goldray commented.



Stravinsky's Three Pieces for Clarinet will be performed by Sarah Lawrence College senior Elizabeth Gustin, and orchestra conductor Martin Goldray will play Stravinsky's Ragtime for Piano. Soloists for Gershwin's "Embraceable You" and "Someone to Watch Over Me" include Sarah Lawrence College students Mari Guarino, Lily Fischer and Jessie Mejia. Two early twentieth century films, Han Richter's "Film Study" and Mary Ellen Bute's "Parabola" will be screened with Milhaud's Creation of the World.

For more information, please call (914) 395-2411.

Dan Hurlin Wins Guggenheim Fellowship

Date: Apr 29, 2002

News Release

Dan Hurlin, a member of the Sarah Lawrence College theatre faculty, has won a prestigious 2002 Guggenheim fellowship to choreograph a dramatic puppet piece to premiere at the Dance Theatre Workshop in 2004.



Shirley Kaplan, head of the Sarah Lawrence College Theatre Department, says that Hurlin's Guggenheim fellowship attests to his abilities as an inventive interdisciplinary performance artist. Hurlin's fellowship-funded project will be a full-length puppet piece inspired by the true story of the Hiroshima Maidens, a group of twenty-five women who were disfigured by the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima in 1945. Amid much publicity, the women were invited to the United States in 1955 to undergo reconstructive surgeries. A 'blackout' on images of survivors imposed by the U.S. State Department meant that when the women made public appearances, they could only appear in silhouette. Hurlin's piece will trace the Hiroshima Maiden's odyssey culminating in their appearance (in silhouette) on the television show "This Is Your Life." Influenced by Bunraku or traditional Japanese Puppetry, the piece will be accompanied by music by Bessie award-winning composer Robert Een.

An alumnus of Sarah Lawrence College and a faculty member since 1997, Hurlin works with graduate and undergraduate dance and theatre students at Sarah Lawrence College. Hurlin has performed at venues in New York City including Dance Theatre Workshop, LaMama and Danspace and has received numerous awards for his work including a Village Voice Obie Award and a New York Dance and Performance Award.

Guggenheim Fellowship Awards are given on the basis of distinguished achievement in the past and exceptional promise for future accomplishment. The year 2002 Fellowship winners include 184 artists, scholars and scientists selected from over 2800 applicants. Previous Guggenheim appointees include Nobel Laureates and Pulitzer Prize winners.

SLC to Break Ground for New Visual Arts Center

Date: May 1, 2002

News Release

Sarah Lawrence College will break ground on May 23 for a new 60,000 square foot visual arts center, representing a new vision for the way the visual arts are taught. Designed by Susan Rodriguez of [Polshek Partnership Architects](http://www.polshek.com/) » [<http://www.polshek.com/>], the building will provide the national liberal arts college — renowned for the integration of the performing and creative arts into its academically rigorous curriculum — with a building that can meet the increasing and changing demands for studies in the visual arts and visual culture at Sarah Lawrence.



"The building of the Monika A. and Charles A. Heimbold, Jr. Visual Arts Center comes at a time of increasing impact of visual images in our culture," said Michele Tolela Myers, president of the College.

Sarah Lawrence alumna Nancy Spector, a curator at the Guggenheim Museum in Manhattan, explained that the current state of the visual arts is changing and that it is important to create a building that reflects the interdisciplinary nature of the arts today. "Artists themselves are moving past specific boundaries. Interdisciplinary art is, in essence, the key to our contemporary culture."

Designing the building brought numerous challenges for the architects, some of which were intrinsic to the housing of the visual arts at a college committed to the interdisciplinary approach to teaching. Others included situating a 60,000 square foot contemporary building between smaller 1920s-era Tudor style buildings on a campus located in a quiet residential neighborhood. Questions the architects had to answer included how to create a building that would enable the interdisciplinary teaching of the visual arts, as well as allowing for the one-on-one student-faculty conferencing that is a hallmark of education at Sarah Lawrence, and how to create a building that would bridge a campus divided by a roadway and an historic predominance of buildings on one side.

The building's design includes the integration of technology as a fundamental tool within the arts. A new media soundstage, darkroom, facilities for printmaking, and a visual resources library will be prominent features of the Center. Ateliers, consisting of private work areas, will be clustered around support facilities and may be used interchangeably for sculpture, painting and other media. Large garage-like sliding doors will open to the outside, easily accommodating the movement of large works and allowing an abundance of natural light.

Designed to retain the undulating topography of the campus and to minimize any impact on surrounding buildings and residences, the three-level center will be built into a hill, with the first level partially below ground. A large rooftop terrace with grassy, landscaped areas will help create the illusion of a smaller building. Natural materials - stone, wood, zinc and glass — will reflect the material quality of its adjacent buildings.

With a challenge grant from alumna Josephine A. Merck to create a "green building" and with support from alumna Joanne Woodward and Paul Newman through Newman's Own, the Monika A. and Charles A. Heimbold, Jr. Visual Arts Center has been sited and designed — and will be constructed, operated and maintained — to minimize the impact on the environment, and for the health and well being of its occupants and neighbors. A major focus is careful attention to the environmental impact of wastes and fumes, a problem inherent to materials used in the visual arts. The design calls for recycled and renewable materials - including the rock removed from the ground to situate the building. It also focuses on minimizing water and energy use and includes a geothermal heating and cooling system. The College is committed to meeting the LEED

certification requirements created by the U.S. Green Building Council, a national coalition of leaders from the building industry, environmental organizations, building and design professions and others concerned with the adoption of green building practices, technologies, policies, and standards.

The Center will be an important community resource in the visual arts, adding exhibit space and a lecture hall/film viewing theatre that will offer many cultural opportunities open to the public.

The Monika A. and Charles A. Heibold, Jr. Visual Arts Center is the centerpiece of a \$25 million building project that is part of a \$75 million campaign: "The Sarah Lawrence Difference. Preserve it. Enrich it."

Anna Quindlen to address SLC's 73rd Commencement

Date: May 6, 2002

News Release

Pulitzer Prize winning journalist and best selling author, Anna Quindlen, will be the speaker for Sarah Lawrence College's 73rd Commencement on May 24 at 10 a.m. A highly regarded social critic, Quindlen will address the 281 candidates for the Bachelor of Arts degree and 134 candidates for Master's degrees.

Currently a columnist for Newsweek magazine, Quindlen has written for major newspapers and magazines for over 25 years, winning the Pulitzer Prize in 1992 during her 18 year tenure at The New York Times. Quindlen made her journalistic reputation there where she was the first woman and youngest writer ever to pen the "About New York" column. She was the first female deputy metropolitan editor of The New York Times and the third woman to write a regular column for the paper's op-ed page.



An author with a wide range of interests, she has appeared on best seller lists for her fiction as well as non fiction. Her three novels are *Object Lessons* (1991), *One True Thing* (1994) and *Black and Blue* (1998). Other books by Quindlen include a collection of essays, *Living Out Loud* (1998); *How Reading Changed My Life* (1998) and two children's books, *The Tree That Came to Stay* (1992), and *Happily Ever After* (1997). Her most recent book, *A Short Guide To A Happy Life* (2000) will be followed by a novel, *Blessings*, to be published in the fall of 2002.

"We are honored and excited to have Anna Quindlen share her words and insights with the class of 2002," said Sarah Lawrence College president Michele Tolela Myers.

Sarah Lawrence is a liberal arts college for men and women, founded in 1926, with a distinctive system of education. It is known for having one of the lowest student/faculty ratios in the country. At the core of the system are small classes, regular one-on-one student-faculty conferences, cross-disciplinary approaches and the integration of the creative arts within the curriculum.

Barbara Walters Donates \$1 million

Date: May 23, 2002

News Release

Internationally acclaimed broadcast journalist Barbara Walters announced today that she has donated \$1million to Sarah Lawrence College to support a permanent public exhibition gallery in the soon-to-be constructed Monika A. and Charles A. Heimbold, Jr. Visual Arts Center.

The announcement was made at the ceremonial groundbreaking for the 61,000 square foot center, the centerpiece of a \$25 million building project to be completed in the fall of 2004, that will reflect "a new vision for the way the arts are taught" said College President Michele Tolela Myers.

"Sarah Lawrence is delighted to have the opportunity to honor our distinguished alumna and to recognize her contributions to the College by naming the gallery the Barbara Walters Exhibition Gallery," said President Myers. The gallery will be the most prominent space in the new visual arts center, designed by Polshek Partnership Architects, to meet the increasing — and changing — demands for studies in the visual arts and visual culture at Sarah Lawrence. It will be open to the public and will display works of prominent artists as well as the work of faculty and students.

In a letter to the Board of Trustees of Sarah Lawrence College, Walters wrote:

"I am so excited about the new visual arts center and would like to support this effort as an expression of my belief that the arts matter and should be supported, and that the unique kind of education the College offers — the Sarah Lawrence Difference, as we call it — needs to be preserved."

The Sarah Lawrence Difference: Preserve It. Enrich It, is a comprehensive \$75 million campaign that includes the visual arts center as well as funds for scholarships, faculty support, technology and renovation of spaces for living and learning, all intended to help maintain the distinctiveness of the Sarah Lawrence education and its unique role in higher education. Focused on learning "in the singular," Sarah Lawrence has one of the lowest student to faculty ratios (9:1) in the country with small classes and individual conferences between students and their professors.

In addition to her desire to support the arts, Walters has said that she contributed the sizable gift to the College, the largest donation she has ever made, because she loved her experience at Sarah Lawrence and has "great admiration for Dr. Myers." She has further stated that she wants to help inspire others to give to the campaign. Walters joins other lead donors to the visual arts center including the Heimbolds, Joanne Woodward and Paul Newman through Newman's Own, Josephine Merck, Pamela Howard, Ruth Leff Siegel, Ann Tenenbaum and Thomas Lee and Margot Bogert.

Founded in 1926, Sarah Lawrence is a liberal arts college for men and women with a distinctive system of education that fosters close contact between students and faculty and includes the integration of the arts within the curriculum.



Commencement 2002: Co-President of the Senior Class Joshua Riegel

Date: May 28, 2002

News Release

The last weeks of school are a tumultuous time, work bleeds into sleep — sleep bleeds into daylight. The night becomes the platform upon which we work, producing intellectual landscapes — dreamscapes that eventually fall to earth, no longer a dream, but an exposition. As usual, this semester, my conference work came together, though gracefully, at the last moment. I spent the last three weeks in my room with my lap-top—thankfully I was not alone. Beside me were three friends, three more lap-tops, and dozens of books. Eventually, over the course of two weeks, between the four of us we produced over one hundred pages of material, meticulously well crafted, of course. My room became our war-room—this was truly conference work.

Four minds in one room, enclosed within four walls, but limitless in possibility. We were writing papers that ostensibly spoke to our own intellectual curiosities but somehow, between moments of solitude and hysteria, conversations unfolded in which our work became relevant not just to ourselves, but to one another — our individual work was not a simple transition from author to page, from hand to key, instead it became enriched through conversations, mediated through communication with one another across our own vast areas of interest and knowledge. These were conversations out of which epiphanous horizons intensified as the dawning sun ascended, out of which elegant prose struggled free from intellectual briar fields. We became resources for one another. We became each other's community, and yet this only became clear to me upon nearing the closure of this intellectual journey.

For what is community if it is not something into which we are inducted? What is community if not rooted into the ground, quietly awaiting full excavation?

Community happens between people. Community is imagined, though not an illusion. Community is where you stand and where you believe it to be, because when we support one another, when we become invested in one another, in the creative and intellectual processes of one another, community exists. When our ability to communicate difference, to live kindly and gently within disagreement, and to embrace diversity burns so intensely it demands being carried outside of the Sarah Lawrence seminar, we can viably cultivate community from the inside-out, birthing it anew and carrying it with us wherever we may roam.

Today, I am left with something very particular after finishing this last round of conference projects... and this gift surrounds an newly uncovered understanding of community, what it means to be part of community, what it means to create community, and what it means to sustain community. Community starts with us.

Malcolm X Shabazz once wrote:

"We ourselves have to lift the level of our community, take the standards of our community to a higher level, make our own society beautiful so that we will be satisfied... we've got to change our own minds about each other, we have to see each other with new eyes... we have to come together with warmth..." and it is with warmth that I would like to invite us all to step into many more years of learning, the creation of a beloved community, and to uphold a generosity of spirit which can carry us all across torrid rivers of sorrow and most importantly joy.

I would like to humbly and graciously thank: our wonderful faculty — the fulcrum of our intellectual community, holding the pieces together with renewed rigor and dedication each year. Our staff and administration who work to enrich this community with superlative strength and insight, my peers who look toward the future with hope and unending curiosity, and our parents and loved ones who first taught us the meaning of community and love.

Again in the worlds of Malcolm X Shabazz: "One day, may we all meet together in the light of understanding."

Thank you.

Joshua D. Riegel

Commencement 2002: Graduate Student John J. Lipuma

Date: May 28, 2002

News Release

John J. Lipuma is a Vice President of Sales for an advertising technology company in Manhattan. John earned his MFA in Creative Writing Fiction from Sarah Lawrence as a part-time student over a three year period. He published his first book in July 2001, a short story collection entitled "Jubilee & Other Stories" published by the First Books Library. His most recent work, a non-fiction piece entitled "A Letter To Jackie" appears in FOR THE GATHERING, a Sarah Lawrence College commemorative tribute to the events of 9/11.



"The next speaker after me is a Pulitzer Prize Winner (Anna Quindlen), so there's no pressure...

This is for those who are faced with what to do with the rest of their lives:

Ernest Hemingway once said "If you want to know where your true talents lie, look at how you earn your living." I earn my living as a Vice President of Sales for an advertising technology company in Manhattan. I earned my MFA in Creative Writing from Sarah Lawrence College as a part-time student over a three year period. In other words, the pursuit of my dreams has only been a part-time endeavor.

It was thirteen years ago that I earned my BA in English from Providence College and set off for New York City to pursue a career as a writer. My first job out of school was as an advertising salesperson at Esquire Magazine in New York. I was very selective about choosing Esquire — a literary lifestyle magazine that had published the early works of Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald and hundreds of other great writers. I took the position on the business side of the magazine as way in the door, hoping for an eventual opening on the editorial side. Two things soon became apparent: 1) editors don't like salespeople — there's this separation of "church and state" and 2) the editors of Esquire had no interest in publishing the original works of some kid in the advertising department over those of Saul Bellow and Norman Mailer.

So in a few years I worked my way up as an advertising Salesman, soon making more money at 25 than the 40 year old managing editors who were routinely and joyfully rejecting my work. Later I worked at Vanity Fair, again staying in close proximity to celebrated writers and editors, but never fully inhabiting their reality. My reality was traveling around the country selling ad space to corporate advertisers — writing stories on planes and in hotel rooms alone at night, keeping a journal but always with divided attention and energy. I stepped up my efforts enrolling in writing programs — the summer program at Yale, the Fine Arts Center in Provincetown — working on the craft of fiction writing. One of my workshop teachers became a mentor in Provincetown, to whom I explained my moral dilemma of being a salesman but really wanting to be a writer. He offered me some words of wisdom that led me to Sarah Lawrence College. He said,

"Being a salesman is a wonderful training ground for writing."

I looked at him in disbelief. "How so?"

"Only a salesman can appreciate just how important each word is in communicating with people. In sales, like in writing, there has to be a precision in language to be successful. You are telling a story — taking someone from point A, to point B to point C. The same is true as a writer bringing a reader along in your story. And of

course, you are probably gaining valuable insight into different types of people, their motivations, learning what makes them tick — I would think sales provides you with a fertile wealth of experiences as a writer that you can build on."

He went on to advise that I apply to an MFA program. Energized by his words I sought a nurturing environment, a refuge away from corporate life in NYC, to be among other aspiring artists in pursuit of my dream. The first time I set foot on this campus I knew there was no other place for me. To gain acceptance into a writing program as prestigious as this one at Sarah Lawrence was literally a new lease on life for me. The fateful decision of keeping my job while attending part-time brought with it some harrowing experiences.

For instance, using the "writing is good for sales theory" on my Educational Assistance application, I convinced my company to pay my full tuition. Naturally they assumed my classes would be at night. My classes were always held in the middle of the day. Attending class and getting to Bronxville from Manhattan without my superiors catching on to my whereabouts has become the stuff of legend. I would excuse myself from important meetings and dash unseen out the door, always careful to leave props in my office to give the impression I had not left for the day — a fresh cup of coffee on the desk, or my keys, a coat on a chair — some of my best creativity over the past three years was not on the page — but in the escape routes I used fleeing the office. In fact, I'm sure they are looking for me right now.

The short, thirty minute train ride from Grand Central to Bronxville could be an emotional rollercoaster — dodging cell phone calls, the manic high stress of leading a secret life — but without fail the walk from the train station through the backstreets of Bronxville, past the Tudor houses and stone walls of campus, in rain or sunshine or snow — my Great Escape was exhilarating. The feeling I got being in class at Sarah Lawrence — it's a feeling I never experience in corporate America. Every walk to class for me became a victory walk — a small battle won in keeping my dream of becoming a full-time writer alive.

Whatever your true talent is, make it your life's work. Don't settle for small victory walks in the pursuit of your dream. All of us here today, as graduates of SLC, have achieved more today than merely keeping a dream alive — we've advanced it another step forward. Thirteen years have passed for me between my BA and my masters today — imagine if I had spent that time fully devoted to writing. That is the challenge for all of us from this day forward — will we live each day in pursuit of our dreams? Will we realize the full breadth of our God-given talents — or will we let it fall away from us?

I wish each of you endurance and fortitude on your walk of life. I wish you peace at the center. Walks are best taken with people you love, hand in hand, where no words can do justice to the inspiration felt inside your heart, where the movement is always forward movement and you eventually get to where you're going. May it be so for your dreams."