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Women at Bryant : a History, 1863 - Present

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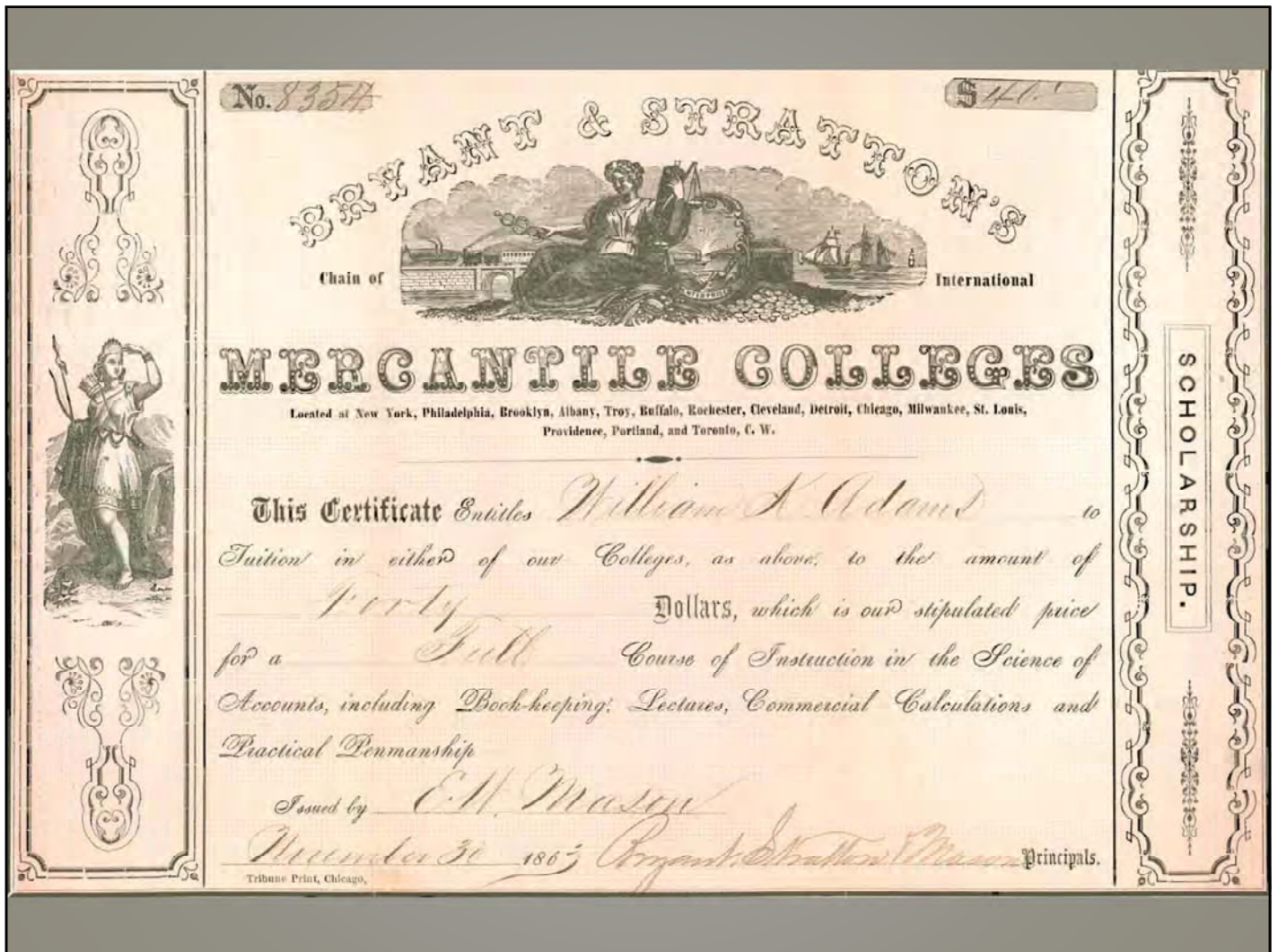
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Women at Bryant: A History 1863 - Present

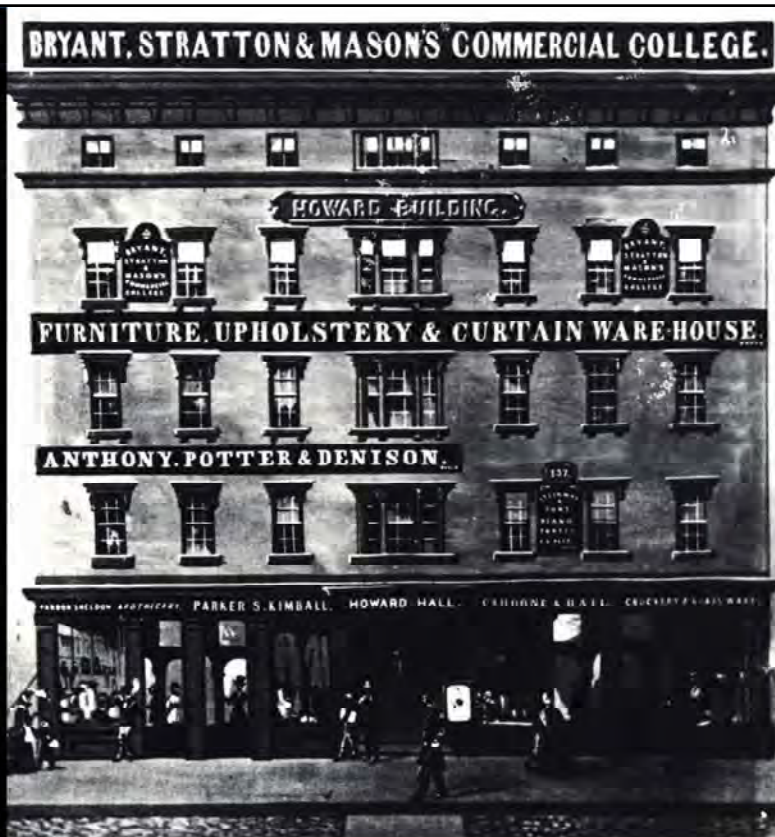
Jillian Emberg, '12
Jessica Komoroski, '11

Prepared for *Celebrate Women*

November 10, 2009



Bryant began as part of a chain of Bryant and Stratton proprietary colleges established throughout the United States in the nineteenth century. Initially located in downtown Providence, Rhode Island, the college was established in 1863 as a school to train returning Civil War veterans in bookkeeping and good office practices. At a time when most universities only accepted men, the school provided educational opportunities for women from its founding.



"It is now no unusual thing for posts of great importance and responsibility to be filled by women."

-Ezra Mason, 1865, one of the founding members of the college

Ezra Mason, one of the founding members of the college, stated in 1865, "It is now no unusual thing for posts of great importance and responsibility to be filled by women." This highlights the significance that Bryant and Stratton placed on women participating in the business world. Mason noted that Bryant and Stratton had made special appeals to women to fill the roles left behind by the men who participated in the Civil War.

Miss C.J. Arnold was one of the original eleven faculty members of the college. She was responsible for teaching bookkeeping in what was then called the "ladies" department.



Bryant women's typing class, 1890s

Bryant and Stratton capitalized on the opportunities that the invention of the typewriter and the development of shorthand created for women in the business world.

When typewriting and shorthand began to gain popularity in late 1800s and early 1900s, it quickly became known as "women's work".

These were new tasks that were not associated with "men's work". Consequently, women typists and stenographers were not perceived as taking jobs away from men.



As a result of women's newfound interest in shorthand and typing, female enrollment at Bryant began to increase in the 1880s. In fact, by 1914, women represented 57% of all students enrolled in office work courses.

In 1916, Bryant officially became a college and began offering the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree.



A typical 1920s classroom at Bryant

By the 1920s, women were active members of both the faculty and student body.



Bryant's 1925 Women's Basketball Team

Extracurricular activities included women's basketball.



By the mid-1930s, Bryant had outgrown the facilities in its downtown Providence location. In 1935, President Harry Jacobs purchased land and buildings on the corner of Hope Street and Young Orchard Avenue on Providence's East Side. Notice the original archway, pictured here, that was eventually transferred to the Smithfield campus.



For the first time, dormitories were available for women.



THE LOUNGE

Rest Room for young women students with the college matron in attendance.

All out-of-town single women under 21-years-old were required to live in the college residence halls, supervised by housemothers. They had to abide by a number of rules and regulations that remained in place until the 1960s. Strict curfews were enforced: 10:00 p.m. on weeknights and 11:00 p.m. on weekends. Women also had to sign out when leaving the dorms and sign in when returning. These strict curfews were imposed only on the female students. Additionally, women were expected to learn proper etiquette that they could apply in both their careers and personal life.

Poster of Honorary Graduates and Titles of Degrees conferred upon them by Bryant College, Providence.

To

Anna Steese Richardson

The Honorary Degree of Master of
Science in Business Administration
Awarded August 7, 1936

Born in Weston, Stark County, Ohio. Graduate of Philadelphia Normal School for Girls. Became a reporter for Iowa newspapers and McClure Newspaper Syndicate. Joined the staff of the New York World in 1903. Since 1905 Associate Editor of the Woman's Home Companion. A writer of successful plays. An author of many books, distinguished in choice of popular subjects chiefly relating to women's interests. Her magazine column on good citizenship and her public addresses reflect her keen insight into human nature, her fine wit, the vitality of her ideas and activities and her constructive inspiration and direction to the advancement of women's hopes and ambitions in public and private life.



Ruth M. Leach

In the late 1930s, Bryant began recognizing outstanding women by awarding them honorary degrees. Among the first women to receive honorary degrees from Bryant were Anna Steese Richardson, 1936, associate editor of *Women's Home Companion* and Ruth M. Leach, 1944, the first woman to be appointed a vice-president of IBM.



Bryant Pamphlet,
Careers for Women, 1943

Courses Offered at Bryant College

REGULAR COURSES

Two-year degree courses in
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
ACCOUNTANCY AND FINANCE
OFFICE MANAGEMENT
EXECUTIVE-SECRETARIAL SCIENCE

Four-year degree course in
COMMERCIAL TEACHER-TRAINING

One-year diploma courses in
SECRETARIAL STUDIES

Elective course in
COMMERCIAL SPANISH

This course is open to students of the Day Division.

WAR EMERGENCY COURSES

One-year diploma course in
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
For young men between 19 and 20 who desire to
begin their education before being called to se-
lective service.

24-Week Course in
STENOGRAPHIC TRAINING
For graduates of colleges and universities.

24-week
FINISHING COURSE
in
STENOGRAPHIC TRAINING
For graduates of commercial high schools.

One-year diploma course in
MEDICAL SECRETARIAL TRAINING

Bryant Pamphlet,
Education in Wartime, 1942

With the onset of World War II, men from college campuses across the United States were drafted or volunteered to support the war effort. This left schools, like Bryant College, with a predominately female student body. There were only eleven men in Bryant's 1944 graduating class of 155 and thirteen men out of a class of 154 graduates in 1945.

Careers for Women

RAPIDLY and radically changing conditions are making academically inclined young women look with interest upon careers in business.

Opportunities for women in business have long been recognized, but today these opportunities are greater than ever. Government and war industry have a demand for qualified Secretaries and Accountants far in excess of the supply. Nor will that demand end when the war is won. It is authoritatively stated by government officials that the demand will be even greater in the post-war reconstruction period.

IT IS THE ERA OF WOMEN'S GREAT OPPORTUNITY!



Bryant Pamphlet, *Careers for Women*, 1943

Bryant offered special emergency wartime accelerated programs to its students, and it made special appeals to women during this time, declaring in 1943:

“IT IS THE ERA OF WOMEN’S GREAT OPPORTUNITY!”



CO-EDITORS
CLAIRE A. GILFIX
JULIA H. SCOTT

1945 *Ledger*

Women kept the Bryant campus thriving while men were away at war and assumed leadership positions that had previously been dominated by men. In 1943, for the first time, women were the co-editors of the Bryant yearbook, *The Ledger*. They continued to serve in this role in 1944 and 1945.



1944 Women's Basketball Team

The 1944 *Ledger* credited the women's basketball team with keeping "Bryant basketball-conscious" at a time when the sport "nearly bid Bryant good-bye" when most of its "young men left us".



MISS DOROTHY F. HINES, B.S. in Com'l Ed.

Instructor of Shorthand and Filing

The newest member of our faculty at Bryant College is Miss Hines. It is certainly hard to call her by her title, especially after being associated with her as a student last year. Everyone is bound to slip a little, and sometimes she is called "Dottie," purely accidental of course. Miss Hines was educated here at Bryant College. She has a way of catching her students—that is, if her students doubt her word in any way whatsoever, which of course they shouldn't, she will say, "And, what do you think?" That famous saying certainly makes many a face blush. Other than teaching, Miss Hines spends a great deal of time bowling.

Dorothy Hines, along with her sister Alice Hines, enrolled in the newly established four-year teacher training program at Bryant in 1937. Dottie, as she was affectionately known, graduated in 1941 and immediately began working as a teacher in Bryant's two-year secretarial program. She was quick to recognize the importance of women at Bryant during World War II. In a recent interview, she stated, "If it weren't for the girls, Bryant probably would not have survived because when Pearl Harbor came, the school had so few boys that you could count them on one hand".



Dottie Hines O'Connell, 1983



Alice Hines McLaughlin, 1983

Dottie, along with her sister Alice, who began teaching at Bryant in 1948, remained on the faculty until 1983 when they both retired. Each of the Hines' sisters dedicated nearly forty years of their life to teaching and mentoring women students.



Bryant Pamphlet, *The Revolving Door*, 1951

Despite the advances made by women during the World War II era, the 1950s curriculum at Bryant reflected the conservative social values of that era.

And some extras for young women

A course in Personality Development by Mrs. Lautrelle P. Love, Dean of Women, brings beauty experts to advise secretarial students on:

STYLING—Line and color, versatility, appropriateness, wardrobe planning, economical buying.

WALKING AND COMPORTMENT — Grace in motion and repose.

SPEECH — Breath control, tone quality, resonance, volume, pronunciation.

MAKE-DOWN — Skin care and a clear complexion, correct application of cosmetics.

ORIENTATION—Adjustment of the individual to surroundings, society and

circumstances; cultivation of an alert mind.

And these things are mighty important for young women in a successful business career!

THIS ONE'S TRUE TOO

Ginny was graduated in 1946 with a B.S.S. degree (Bachelor of Secretarial Science). Even before her graduation she knew that a good job was waiting for her. A leading firm of Certified Public Accountants in Newport, Rhode Island, heard of her through the Bryant Placement Bureau. The fact that Ginny had a good record at such a college as Bryant was all the recommendation the firm needed.



REMEMBER — It's **YOUR** future income, **YOUR** future independence, **YOUR** future happiness you're making sure of.

Bryant Pamphlet, *The Revolving Door*, 1951

For example, a 1951 Bryant brochure revealed that the school offered “some extras for young women” such as personality development courses that taught women proper styling, walking and comportment, speech, make-down, and orientation.



Hired in 1949, Gertrude Hochberg remains one of the most significant women in Bryant's history.

Gertrude Hochberg was hired in 1949 to serve as the Director of Public Relations at Bryant. During her tenure at the college, she had a tremendous impact on increasing opportunities for women at Bryant. She also provided positive role models for Bryant women and invited distinguished women to be honored at commencement.



Oveta Culp Hobby, 1953 Commencement speaker

For example, in 1953, Oveta Culp Hobby, the Director of the Women's Army Corps during the Second World War and the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, delivered the Commencement Address, the first woman in Bryant's history to do so.



1963 Bryant symposium,
"The Status of Women in America"

In 1963, as part of Bryant's centennial celebration, Hochberg organized a symposium entitled, "The Status of Women in America." Modeled after John F. Kennedy's 1961 Presidential Commission on the Status of Women in America, Hochberg organized this conference because she wanted to demonstrate Bryant's interest in women's professional lives and emphasize how this had been a continuous theme in the college's history. When some of the male faculty members expressed opposition to this symposium, Hochberg responded that the college needed to attract more women, for the male to female ratio at that time was 7:1.



Featured speakers at "The Status of Women in America" symposium.
Left to right: Jessie Bernard, Pauli Murray, Esther Peterson, and Marion Stevenson

Esther Peterson, the Assistant Secretary of Labor and Chairperson of the Presidential Commission on the Status of Women, presided over the symposium. Other participants included Jessie Bernard, a Professor of Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania, Pauli Murray, a Senior Fellow and award-winning African American author and lawyer, and Marion Stevenson, Vice President of NBC.



Gertrude Hochberg

After the symposium, Hochberg was recognized for this pioneering event and invited by Governor John Chafee to form the Rhode Island Commission on the Status of Women. In 1971, Governor Frank Licht appointed her the first Chairwoman of the Permanent Advisory Commission on Women in the State of Rhode Island. Hochberg became the first female vice-president at Bryant, serving as Vice President of Public Affairs from 1975-1977. In May of 1977, she became the first woman to be inducted into the Rhode Island Hall of Fame.



The 220-acre Tupper Property included the old Mowry homestead which was moved to a new site so that the Unistructure could command an impressive view.

By the late 1960s Bryant had outgrown its East Side campus in Providence. In the fall of 1967, Gertrude Hochberg, along with President Gardner Jacobs, was instrumental in obtaining the 220-acre Tupper property from Earl Tupper to build its new campus in Smithfield. The ground-breaking for the new campus occurred on April 15, 1970, and the school opened its doors in September 1971.



1962 photo of Freshman "Coeds" with Beanies. The student holding the textbook is Mercy Igwe from Nigeria.

The pressure for social change in the 1960s sparked a wave of advancements for women at Bryant. During this decade, women across the United States pushed for the abolishment of strict dormitory rules and regulations that had been in place for decades.

BULLETIN OF BRYANT COLLEGE

*Manual for
Women
Students
In Dormitories*

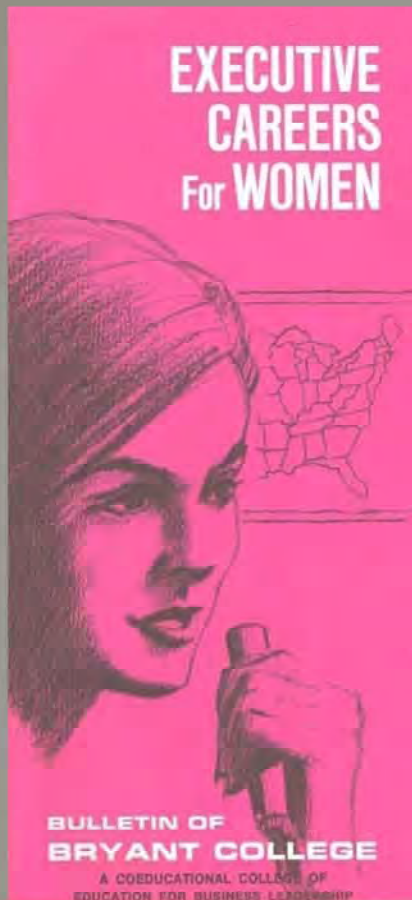


Bryant College
Providence, Rhode Island

Bryant pamphlet, 1964

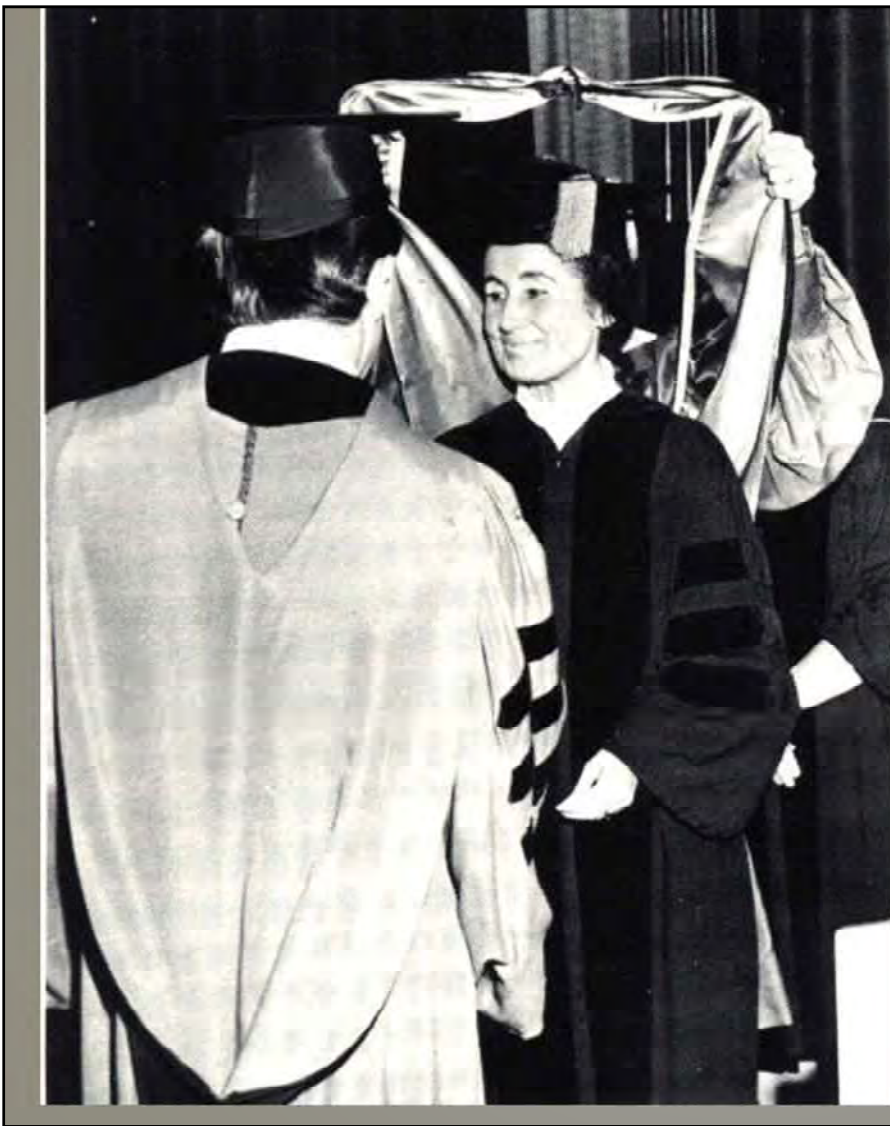
For example, this 1964 pamphlet covered topics such as dress regulations, quiet hours, sign out regulations and weekend permissions.

In 1969, Bryant women convinced the administration to extend their curfews to 2:00 a.m. on the weekends and midnight on weeknights. They also successfully fought to end the strict dress code that forced them to wear skirts, blouses, hose, and heels to dining halls.



Bryant pamphlet, *Executive Careers for Women*, 1970

Throughout the 1970s, Bryant continued to appeal to women. This 1970 brochure stated, "There's room at the top for women", and advocated that "a women need not make an either/or choice between home and career."



October 11, 1972
Juanita Kreps receiving honorary degree
from Bryant

In 1972, Bryant hosted its second major conference on women, the "Symposium for the Advancement for Women". Organized by Gertrude Hochberg and held on October 11, 1972, Juanita Kreps, then James B. Duke Professor of Economics at Duke University, was the featured speaker. She was also awarded an honorary degree.



After 28 years of service at Bryant, Gertrude Hochberg, Vice President for Public Relations, retired. Upon Hochberg's retirement, Dean of Academic Affairs, Clarissa Patterson, hosted a roast in honor of Vice President Hochberg. Dean Patterson also had a long and distinguished career at Bryant and played an important role in promoting the status of women. She retired in 1994.

WOMEN'S VARSITY SOFTBALL



Nancy Berardi, 3rd
Debbie Branton, OF
Mary Ellen Couchon, OF, Captain
Karen Culp, IF
Melissa Janikies, SS
Janna Joyce, 1st, 3rd
Kim Lancaster, 2nd, OF, P

Wendy LoSchiavo, C, Captain
Gail Padrick, OF
Terry Payton, 1st
Lori Pilcher, OF
Barbara Schroeder, P
Shelley Tahan, OF
Lynne Wright, P
Linda Ysewyn, 2nd

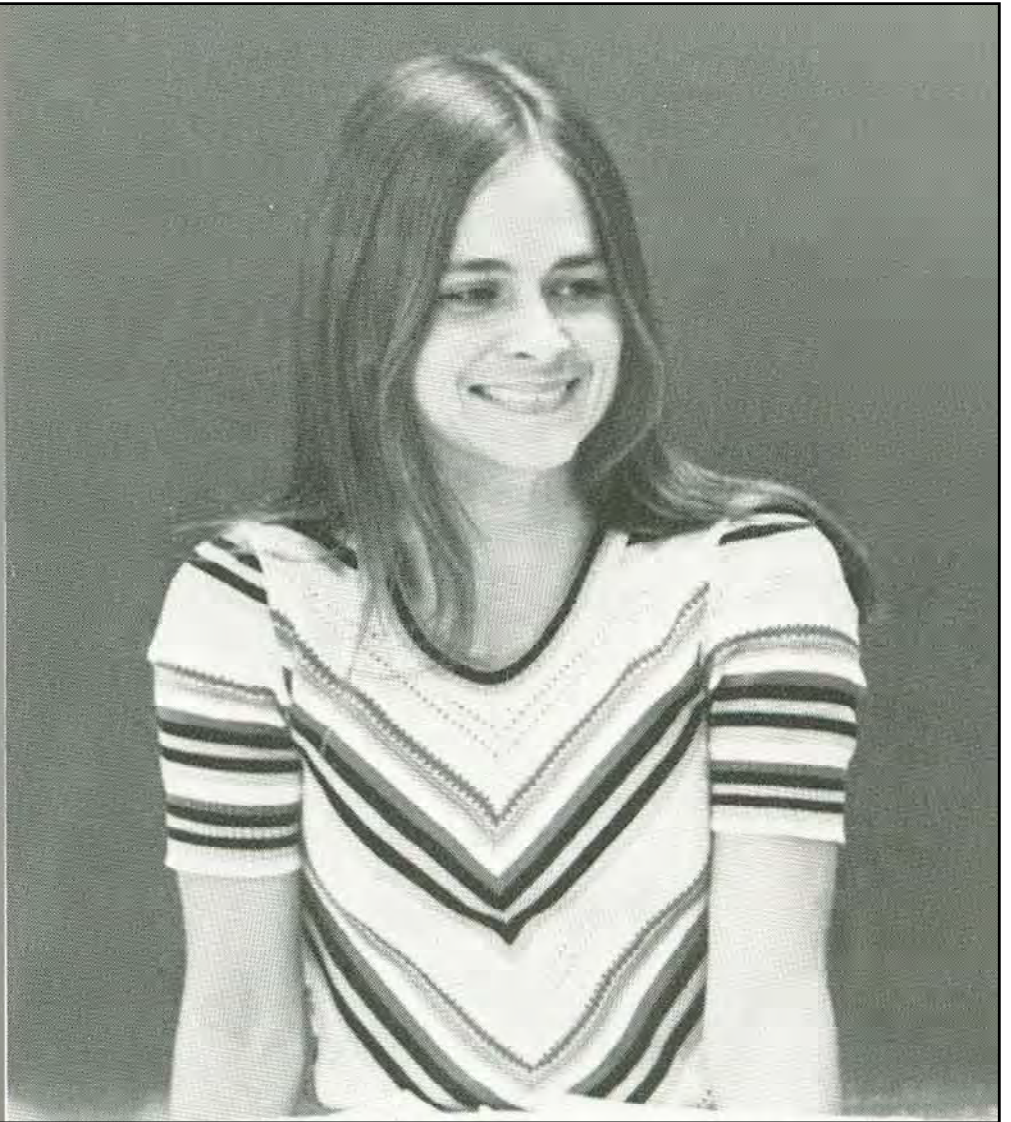
Coach: Lorraine Cournoyer-Hudak



1981 Ledger

By the late 1970s, opportunities for women at Bryant in varsity sports had dramatically increased. The passage of Title IX of the 1972 Educational Amendments Act declared that colleges could not discriminate on the basis of sex in its educational programs, activities, or employment practices. This included athletic opportunities. Before the passage of Title IX, women were limited to cheerleading and intramural sports, but by 1979 varsity women's sports included soccer, cross country, tennis, basketball, cheerleading, bowling, softball, and swimming. Today, Bryant offers ten women's varsity sports.

Dr. Judy Barrett Litoff, 1975



By the mid-1970s Bryant began to attract more women to its faculty. In 1975, Dr. Judy Barrett Litoff joined distinguished faculty ...

Strategies Hatched in The White House



Two White House Views

BELLA ABZUG

President, Women USA
"Affirmative
(and Negative) Action
in the Oval Office"

Sponsored by Bryant College

Thursday, October 15, 1981
8:15 p.m.
Bryant College Auditorium



BELLA ABZUG

No Admission Charge

HELEN THOMAS

UPI Chief White House
Correspondent

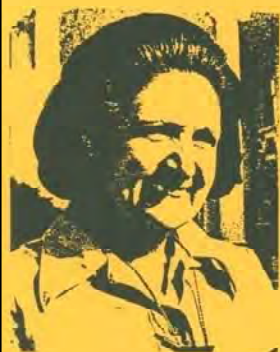
"What Ronald Reagan
Really Like"

Sponsored by the Rhode Island Press Club,
Rhode Island News Photographers Association,
Rhode Island Women Photographers,
and Bryant College

Friday, October 16, 1981
8:15 p.m.

Bryant College Auditorium

For free tickets, call 231-1200, ext. 206
Bryant College, Smithfield, RI



Autumnfest

Sponsored by Women Educators at Bryant College

Tuesday Oct. 26

PROGRAM

Greetings from WEE by Joan Marcella

"Functions of Feminist Organizations" by Gaytha Langlois

Featuring Film

"TAKING OUR BODIES BACK"

Followed by Panel Discussion

Judy Litoff Mary Speer
Rae Oberholt Roberta Ellis

Closing Remarks by Nora Berry



such as pioneering and self-proclaimed feminist Professor of Sociology Joan Marcella who founded the first feminist organization at Bryant, Women Educators at Bryant, in 1974. Notice that the 1976 Autumn Fest celebration, sponsored by Women Educators at Bryant, featured Professor Gaytha Langlois speaking on "functions of feminist organizations."



Mary P. Lyons

1972

Professor Litoff also joined such distinguished faculty as Professor Mary Lyons ...



Gaytha A. Langlois

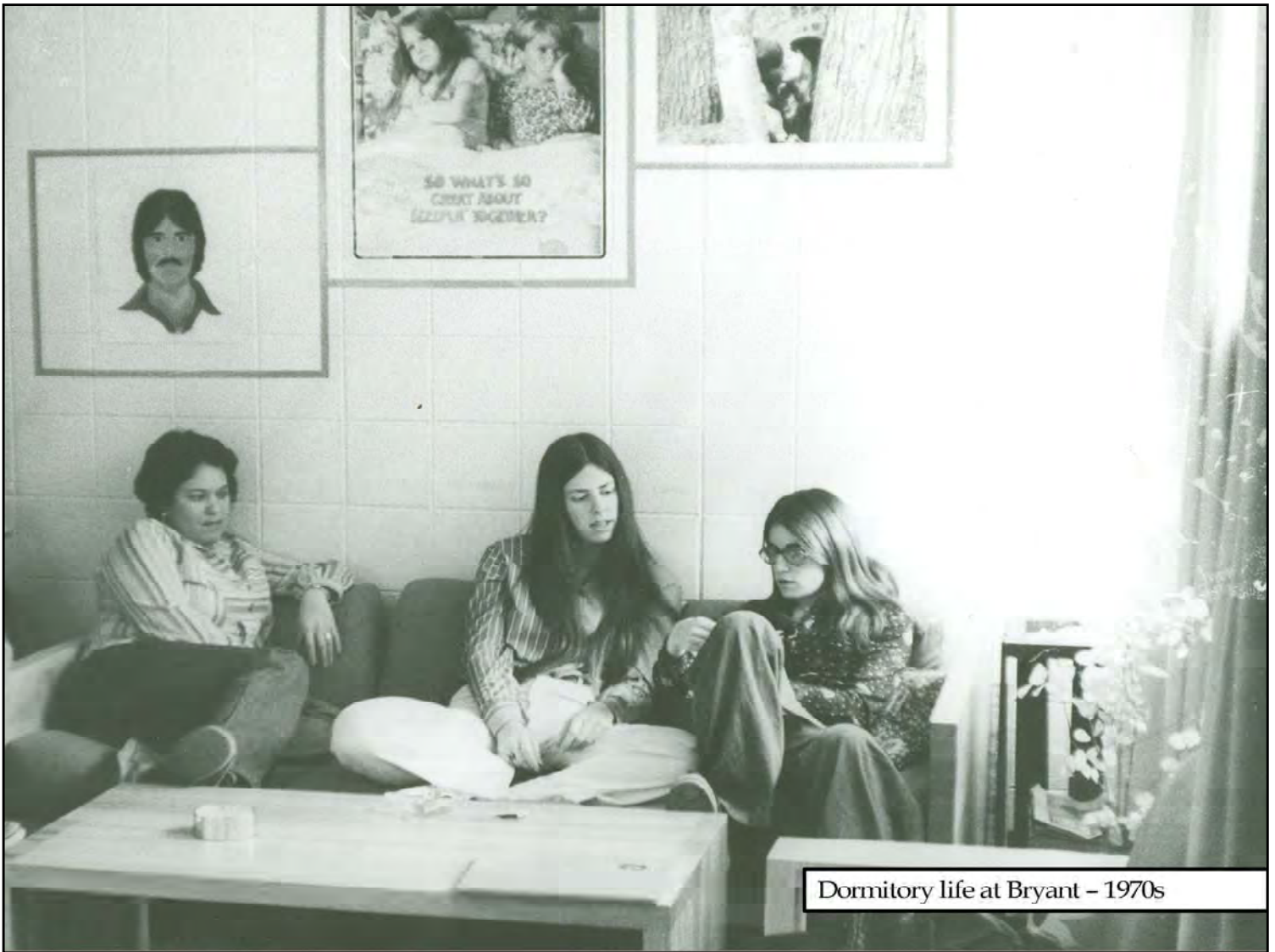
1972

and Professor Gaytha Langlois.

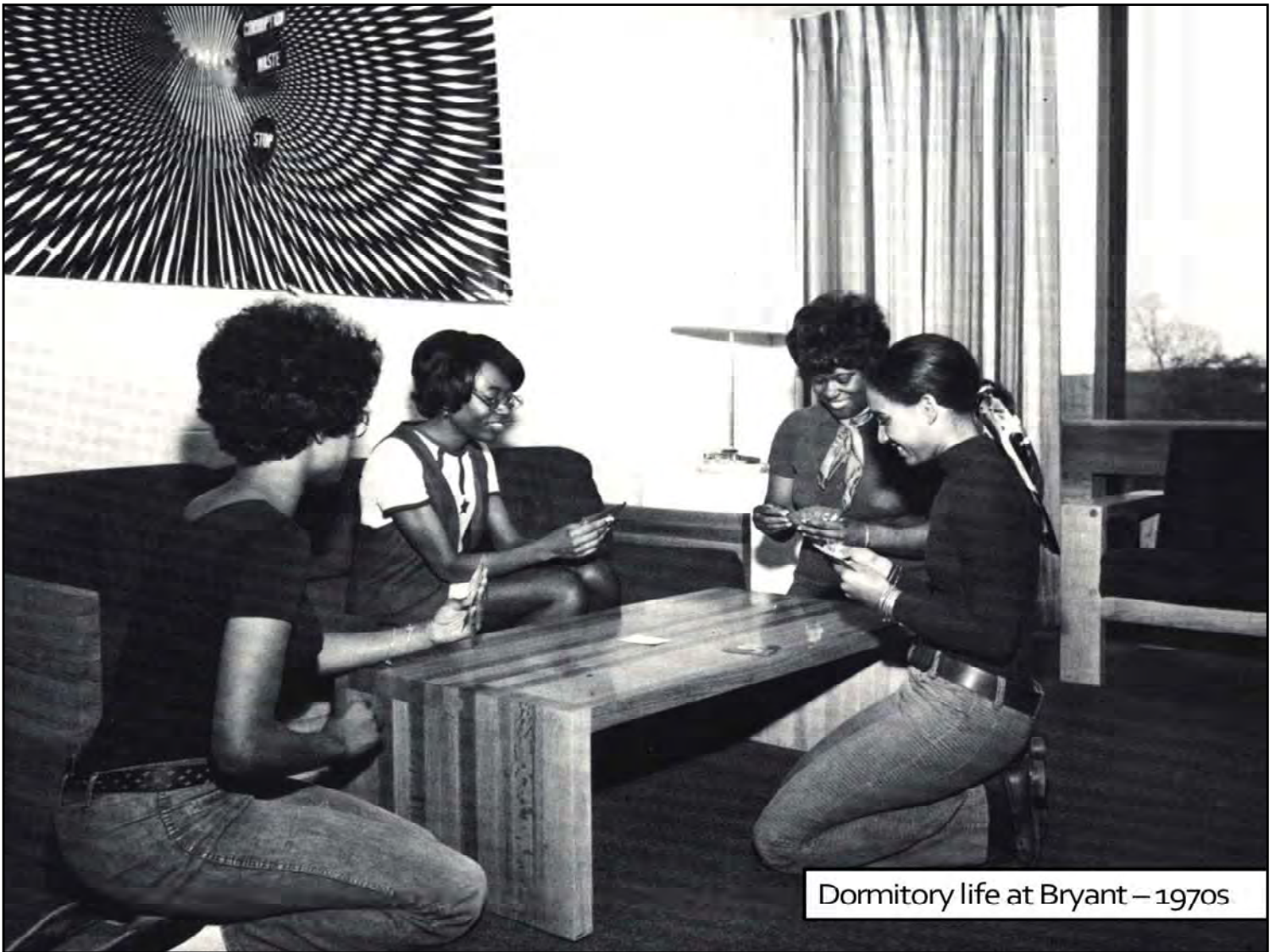


Dr. Judy Barrett Litoff, 1976

Dr. Patterson recruited Professor Litoff to teach American's Women's History to women enrolled in the two-year secretarial program.



During the late 1970s and early 1980s, Bryant experienced a significant rise in the number of women enrolled in the college. By 1977, women made up 43.9% of the student body, and by 1980, women accounted for 49.6% of students.



Dormitory life at Bryant – 1970s

In addition, female students increasingly began to seek degrees in subjects other than the secretarial sciences and pursued professional careers in fields such as Marketing, Management, Accounting, and Finance.



Berta Hysell, 1980

During the 1970s Bryant also began to reach out to and recruit women of color. The success of this program was due largely to the work of Roberta Hysell, who was hired in 1977 to recruit students of color and raise awareness of diversity issues on campus. Her work laid the foundation for the establishment of Bryant's Intercultural Center. By the time of her retirement in 1994, there were more than 300 students of color and 64 international students in Bryant's undergraduate student body.



Shontay Delalue King

The current (2009) Director of the Intercultural Center is Shontay Delalue King.



Computers - 1980s

As enrollment in the two-year secretarial program declined and increasing numbers of women sought the four-year degree in business administration, the college, in the early 1980s, began to phase out the two-year secretarial program and the four-year teacher training program.

BRYANT COLLEGE



WOMEN IN BUSINESS



Bryant brochure,
Women in Business, 1992

By the early 1990s, women throughout America had established themselves as an integral part of the workforce. This 1992 Bryant brochure, "Women in Business," emphasized that four out of every ten executive, administrative, and managerial jobs were held by women. It also included profiles of recent women graduates who were corporate leaders, entrepreneurs, accomplished professionals, and rising stars in the business world.



Rosa Parks and Professor Judy Barrett Litoff, 1995

During the 1990s, Bryant continued to recognize outstanding women by awarding them honorary degrees. In 1995, for example, Rosa Parks, the legendary Civil Rights leader, was awarded an honorary degree by the college.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Orit Gadiesh is Chairman of the Board of Bain & Company, a global strategy consulting firm. Gadiesh has worked with hundreds of CEOs and senior executives of major international companies on strategy development and the implementation of change within the corporation. She is a regular speaker at executive conferences and has published articles for publications such as *Harvard Business Review*. In local and global arenas, Gadiesh volunteers her experience as a pragmatic strategist to the academic, business, and civic communities. In 1997, Gadiesh was honored with the New Englander of the Year award.



B. Smith is an entrepreneur whose name is synonymous with style. A former model, Smith has graced the covers of *Mademoiselle*, *Essence*, and *Ebony*. Smith owns restaurants in New

York and Washington, D.C. She has syndicated television shows and has written for *Entertainment Weekly*. She received the New York Times Best Seller award.



SUE HERERA is a well-respected journalist with CNBC. She anchors "Business Tonight" and co-anchors "The Money Wheel" and "Market Wrap." Her first book, *Women of the Street: Making it on Wall Street - the World's Toughest Business*, was published this year. Ms. Herera has been with CNBC since its inception in 1989.



Jane Pauley is a design that expresses her co-authored her first book, *Intuitive Home Design*. She is a entrepreneur, retailer, and volunteer. George delivers motivational talks and presentations to colleges and organizations around the country.



MIREILLE GUILIANO



JEAN CHATZKY



DOMINIQU



Susan L. Taylor, editor-in-chief of *Essence* magazine and vice president of Essence Communications, Inc., will be the Summit's closing keynote speaker.

In the Spirit of Susan L. Taylor is a collection of essays on the history of women in business and the future of the profession.



Keynote speaker **Patricia Dunn** oversees \$833 billion in assets at the world's largest institutional money manager, Barclays Global Investors (BGI), and chairs their board. Since joining BGI in 1976 as a temporary secretary, she has worked in consulting, portfolio management, trading, marketing, and client relationships. She directs the strategic development of BGI's businesses in the Americas, Australia/SE Asia, Europe, and Japan. Today, the Barclay's Global CEO is listed as No. 12 on *Fortune* magazine's list of the USA's 50 most powerful women in business. She frequently appears at industry seminars on quantitative investing.



Kati Machtley and Suze Orman



MICHELLE PELUSO



GERALDINE A. FERRARO



JOAN COUNTRYMAN



Jane Pauley Today Show



Sherron Watkins Enron whistleblower



JOANNA T. LAU is the president and co-founder of LAU Technologies, manufacturer of electronic systems for U.S. Military and commercial applications. Ms. Lau's many accolades include *Inc.* magazine's 1995 National Turnaround Entrepreneur of the Year award. She received an honorary doctorate from Bryant College in 1997.

In 1997, Kati Machtley, first lady of Bryant, organized the first Women's Summit. Held in March of each year to celebrate women's history month, the Women's Summit attracts nearly 1,000 professional women and men to the campus. Notable keynote speakers have included Suze Orman, internationally acclaimed personal finance expert, Jean Chatzky, financial editor for NBC's Today Show, Jane Pauley, American television journalist, and Geraldine Ferraro who, in 1984, became the first female vice-presidential candidate representing a major American political party.

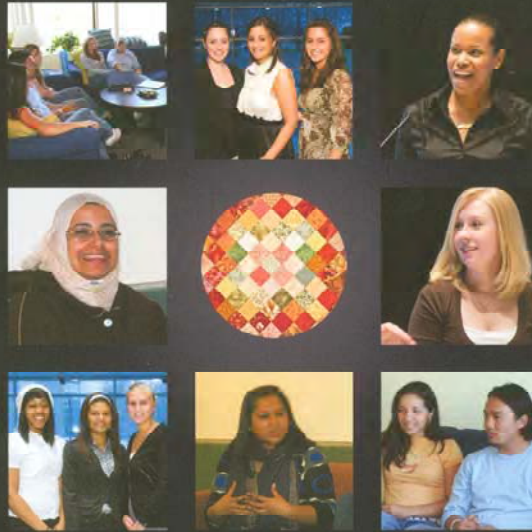


Janet Dean

Janet Dean,
Associate Professor of English and Cultural Studies

In 1998, Bryant began to offer a minor in Women's Studies. Janet Dean is currently (2009) the program coordinator of this minor, now called the Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies minor.

THE WOMEN'S CENTER



CREATING POSSIBILITIES
ON CAMPUS AND BEYOND

The Women's Center was first established in March 2002. Since its creation, the Center has been active in helping women at Bryant adjust to college life and the world around them. Among the many things that the Center accomplishes is a women's "HERstory" month each March. The overall goal of the organization is to provide "resources and support to the increasing number of women students on campus".



Toby Simon

First Women's Center Director appointed

The current Director of the Women's Center is Toby Simon.



Whitney Blatsos, '09



Jessica Komoroski, '11

Even with all of these advances, women still make up less than 50% of the student population. As recent as 2008, women accounted for 43% of the student body. Nonetheless, Bryant women are highly visible on campus and leaders of a number of student run organizations. In 2008-2009, Whitney Blatsos served as president of the Student Senate. Women are presidents of 31 clubs on campus, and currently Jessica Komoroski serves as Editor-in-Chief of *the Archway*.



Kati Machtley and Suze Orman



In conclusion, women at Bryant, both today and in the past, should be proud of their many accomplishments.

Acknowledgements

We would like to extend a special thank you to Mary Moroney, Director of Library Services at the Douglas and Judith Krupp Library, for her energy and enthusiasm for this project. The guidance and advice she provided in locating archival illustrations for this project was invaluable. Thanks also to Professor Judy Barrett Litoff for providing us with the opportunity to undertake this honors project for HIS 263, American Women's History.