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2003-2004 ANNUAL REPORT



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

The Women's Board was established in 1960 by the Board of Trustees of the University of Chicago, in order to personally acquaint its members with the University's research, programs and faculty, to encourage its members to serve as advocates for the University to the larger community and to strengthen the University through funding special projects supporting student life, community outreach, education and academic research.

As of June 30, 2004, the Women's Board had 450 members. Our membership is diverse: approximately one third of our members are alumnae of the University, another ten percent are married to alumni and the rest, more than half of our members, are friends of the University. The Women's Board endeavors to maintain this balance in order to effectively expose people with a wide variety of relationships to the University to the important and interesting work of the University.

The Women's Board is governed by a Steering Committee, which sets strategic direction and oversees programming for the group. Each winter, the Steering Committee solicits funding proposals from within the University Community. In late spring the Chair of the Women's Board convenes a Projects Committee, which, over a two day period, hears presentations from applicants and makes funding allocations which are ratified by the Steering Committee. The Women's Board distributes 100 percent of the funds received from its members; the costs of programs are paid for by members attending each event, and the administrative expenses of operating the Women's Board are funded by the University.

Respectfully submitted,



Katharine L. Bensen
Chair

This inaugural annual report is dedicated to Joan Feitler (Women's Board Chair, 2000-2004), and Gretel Braidwood (Women's Board Executive Secretary, 1992-2004)



FUNDRAISING AND FUNDING RESULTS

The Women's Board solicits funds from its members twice during each year, in the late fall and just prior to its June 30 fiscal year end. During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2004, the Women's Board raised a total of \$324,539, setting a new record. Since inception, the Women's Board has contributed \$4,480,589 to projects in support of the University. Contributions have increased significantly each year during recent years, and the average gift per contributing member for projects during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2004, was \$970.

Programs and projects funded with monies raised during the 2003-2004 fiscal year include:

STUDENT LIFE

Student Internships—the Women's Board provided a total of 17 student internships that enabled:

- Law School students to provide free legal assistance to groups involved in developing affordable housing in the City of Chicago
- students in the College to gain valuable experience working at the Field Museum, History Makers, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Chicago Historical Society
- graduate students in the Social, Physical and Computer Sciences to improve the way science is presented to the public in museums
- undergraduate students to work for organizations supporting Human Rights, both in the United States and internationally

Research and Other Support for Students—Funding from the Women's Board made it possible for:

- graduate students from the Biological Sciences Division to present papers and receive constructive criticism and feedback at professional conferences
- undergraduates to undertake research in non-English speaking locations for their BA papers
- foreign graduate students who also have teaching assignments to participate in an immersion English Language Institute prior to the start of the academic year
- minority undergraduates from across the country to engage in intensive scientific research at the University and be mentored by University faculty for the purpose of encouraging these talented students to pursue doctoral degrees and academic careers



Support of Student Life—Even at a school which values the life of the mind as highly as does the U of C, non-academic endeavors are crucial to a memorable and enjoyable student career. The Women’s Board, a long time supporter of “quality of life” projects for students, funded the following initiatives enhancing student life at the University:

- upgrades to the Ida Noyes Dance Room to help meet the increasing demand for dance facilities needed to support an ever growing variety of dance forms
- the purchase of two pianos for practice rooms at the Shoreland dormitory; the Shoreland houses 15 percent of undergraduate students and is far away from campus practice rooms
- restoration of the 1932 Steinway grand piano at International House, which hosts the Global Voices Performing Arts and Lecture Series (I-House is home to more than 500 students from over 50 countries)
- the purchase of new safety equipment for the Women’s Ice Hockey Club, replacing 30 year old equipment

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Women’s Board is an important partner in the University’s critical efforts to improve the quality of life in the neighborhoods surrounding the University community.

Health Care Services for Children—Women’s Board funding provided operating support for the University Hospitals’ Pediatric Care Van. The van enables the Hospitals to provide basic health and early detection services to elementary school children at Southside schools who would not otherwise receive care.

Student-driven Volunteer Initiatives—Support from the Women’s Board provided funding for:

- supplies and transportation for undergraduates who provide math tutoring at area high schools
- supplies for students who help senior homeowners with snow shoveling, lawn and garden care



EDUCATION AND ACADEMIC RESEARCH

The Women’s Board provided critical funding for the following projects to support the important work of the University’s faculty and cultural institutions:

Facility Improvements

- completion of a laboratory facility to teach the physics of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences using hands-on experiments to supplement traditional, drier methods of instruction
- purchase of equipment for to the Computer Music Studio enabling students to hear how their compositions would sound in various orchestral settings

Academic Publications

- digitization and publication to the Library’s web site of fragile 9th to 17th century Greek, Syriac and Armenian illuminated New Testament manuscripts to make them widely available for teaching and research
- creation of a CD of the music from the Courtesan’s Arts Conference to complement publication of the conference’s papers by Oxford University Press
- implementation of a pilot study to digitally photograph unpublished Syriac manuscripts at a monastery in Mardin, Turkey, the long term safety of which may be jeopardized by the political situation in the Middle East

Support of the Arts

- underwriting of Court Theatre’s world premier of *The Sound of a Voice*, a collaboration by two world renowned artists, composer Phillip Glass (an alumnus) and playwright David Henty Hwang
- creation of a brochure for the Smart Museum’s permanent collection
- purchase of new curtains for Mandel Hall, whose varied concerts and theatrical productions attract more than 50,000 people to campus each year



PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

The Women's Board endeavors to present a broad range of programs to its members each year in order to showcase the ways in which its faculty are leaders in their fields, and how the programs and cutting edge research taking place at the University affect our lives, our community and the larger world in critical ways.

The Women's Board presented ten programs during the 2003-04 fiscal year. Featured speakers and programs included Steven Leavitt (*From Drunk Driving to Corruption*), Saskia Sassan (*Chicago as a Global City*), Bruce Cumings (*Korea*), Michael Silverstein (*Talking Politics*), James Redfield (*The Trial of Socrates*), Berthold Hoeckner (*Film Music and Memory*), Douglas MacAyeal (*Icebergs in December*) and Richard Rosengarten (*Revelation*).



2003-2004 STEERING COMMITTEE

Joan Feitler, *chair*
Mary Anderson
Katharine L. Bensen
Linda H. Blumberg
Robin P. Charleston
Lawrie C. Dean
Victoria J. Dorgan
Janet Duchossois
Barbara E. Franke
Meredith E. Harris
Deone Jackman
Sarah Jaicks
Judy A. Marcus
Judith Hahn Meguire
Ann Nagle
Carolyn Sachs
Sharon Seidler
Gay Stanek
Dorie Sternberg
Marilyn Fatt Vitale

2003-2004 PROJECTS COMMITTEE

Ann Nagle, *chair*
Kay Bucksbaum
Shaun Block
Onnie Darrow
Janet Duchossois
Joan Feitler
Mary Gray
Julie Hall
Abby O'Neil
Claire Prussian
Fran Riley
Barbara Schimberg
Robin Steans
Jane Wright
Carol Randel, *ex officio*

2003-2004 Executive Secretary
Gretel Braidwood