

45TH ANNIVERSARY



The Women's Board
The University of Chicago

2004-2005 ANNUAL REPORT



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

The Women's Board was established in 1960 by the University of Chicago's Board of Trustees in order to personally acquaint its members with the University's faculty and research, 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, 2005, the Women's Board had 455 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. One hundred percent of the funds received from its members are used to fund programs and projects at the University; 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.

It is an honor for me to chair this Board and I am grateful to my colleagues on the Steering Committee and Projects Committee, who have contributed their time and talent in service and support of this University, and also to Bonita Mall, who has done an outstanding job in her first year as our Executive Director.

Respectfully submitted,

Katharine L. Bensen
Chair



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 the end of the University's fiscal year on June 30. During the fiscal year, which ended June 30, 2005, the Women's Board raised a total of \$313,498. Since its inception, the Women's Board has contributed \$4,794,087 to projects in support of the University.

Gifts have increased significantly during recent years; the average gift per contributing member for projects during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2004, was \$1,025. Programs and projects funded with monies raised during the 2003-2004 fiscal year include:

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:

Oriental Institute Excavation in Egypt – Funding from the Women's Board enabled an OI faculty member to excavate the pyramid of Queen Tetisheri at Abydos just north of Luxor, a time-sensitive project due to the current encroachment of adjacent property uses.

New Language Program at the Divinity School – Women's Board funding enabled the Divinity School to create an intensive beginning language curriculum for entering students to complete before the start of classes, enabling them to take a wider variety of courses during their first year of study.

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

- 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.



STUDENT LIFE

Student Internships – The Women’s Board provided more than twenty student internships that enabled:

- Students in the College to gain valuable experience working at the Field Museum, WTTW, The Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and Chicago Community Ventures.
- Undergraduates to study race and ethnicity in Chicago and publish a report of their findings.
- Law School Students to work in the Civil Rights Public Accountability Project, which provides legal services to indigent victims of police abuse and lends legal support to projects that improve police accountability.
- Undergraduate students to work for organizations supporting human rights, both in the United States and internationally.

Support of Student Life – Even at a school which values the life of the mind as highly as the University of Chicago, 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 capital expenditures that will enhance student life at the University:

- Boats for the Sailing Club.
- Reusable outdoor risers for University Theater’s Summer Shakespeare in Hutchinson Courtyard.
- Computers for International House, to enable foreign students to communicate with family at home, conduct academic research on the internet, and prepare coursework assignments and papers.

SUPPORT FOR UNIVERSITY CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

The University’s cultural institutions not only provide important opportunities for cross-disciplinary academic endeavors in support of the arts, but also have well-deserved reputations as important institutions in the cultural and intellectual life of the city. The Women’s Board is pleased to provide funding for the following projects:



- Monies from the Women's Board helped sponsor the 40th Anniversary Season of the University's Contemporary Chamber Players (now Contempo), featuring Eighth Blackbird and the Pacifica Quartet, in order to expose Contempo and the University to new audiences.
- Monies from the Women's Board enabled the Smart Museum to purchase a high-quality color copier to produce educational and promotional materials in house.

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.

Patients-First Emergency Fund – Funding from the Women's Board helped the Hospitals' Department of Social Work provide funding to supply indigent patients with post-discharge emergency assistance, such as medications pending Medicare funding, transportation for needed follow-up care, and the like.

Improving the Chicago Public Schools – The Women's Board provided bridge funding to enable the Center for Urban School Improvement to support a math teaching curriculum and coaching for University students enrolled in a year of graduate education, after which they will teach in South Side schools.

Student-Driven Volunteer Initiatives – Support from the Women's Board provided funding for:

- Field trips to major City museums for children living in a domestic violence shelter on the City's Southwest Side and who participate in Safe Space, a student-run program to provide arts, crafts and cultural enrichment activities to these children.
- The launch of the Community Service Leadership Training Corps, a training program run by the University Community Service Center to develop volunteer leadership capabilities in students willing to commit four years to this highly sought-after program.



PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

The Women's Board presents a broad range of programs to its members each year in order to showcase the ways in which Chicago faculty are leaders in their fields, and how the University's programs and research critically affect our lives, our community, and the larger world.

The Women's Board would like to acknowledge the generosity of the University's faculty in providing lectures on timely, stimulating topics. We presented nine programs during the 2003-04 fiscal year. Featured speakers and programs included Daphne Preuss (*Better Food for the World: Improving the Nutritional Value of Foods Consumed in Developing Countries*), Abner Mikva (*War and Patriotism*), Wendy Doniger (*The Mythology of the Facelift*), Danielle Allen (*On the Pleasures of Greek Lyric*), Ronald S. Burt (*How Gossip Defines Your Reputation and How to Work It*), C. Cybele Raver (*Young Children and Poverty: Positive Outcomes*), Stephen P. Harvey (*The Pyramid of an Egyptian Queen: New Discoveries from Old Abydos*), Melissa Harris-Lacewell (*The Politics of Black Women's Mental Health*), Judith T. Zeitlin (*Ghosts, Sexuality and Fertility in Chinese Literature*), and Charles Newell (*Endgame*). Members of the Women's Board also toured the outstanding arts and crafts collection at Crab Tree Farm.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

During my first year of working with the Women's Board I have found our members to be a lively, wonderfully opinionated, original, and intellectually curious group. The University of Chicago is widely regarded as one of the world's most serious and intellectually rigorous universities. How fitting it is that as members you are given direct access to the University's most distinguished and brilliant faculty through our lecture programs.

The University has benefited from your thoughtful generosity which, in full, goes to support the people and programs that make Chicago a world treasure among academic research institutions. On behalf of my colleagues, our faculty, and our students, let me say how enormously grateful we are to you for your support and how much we look forward to seeing you again and again.

Cordially,

Bonita C. Mall
Executive Director



HONOR ROLL

THE FOLLOWING HONOR ROLL RECOGNIZES THOSE WOMEN'S BOARD MEMBERS WHO HAVE GENEROUSLY MADE GIFTS OF \$1,000 OR MORE TO SUPPORT PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO'S WOMEN'S BOARD DURING FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005

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BARBARA S. ADELMAN
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ELISA PRIMAVERA BAILEY
MRS. JOHN W. BAIRD
MS. JULIE BASKES
ESTHER R. BENJAMIN
KATHARINE L. BENSEN
MRS. JAMES BERÉ
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DORIS B. HOLLEB
CELIA E. HOMANS
MRS. NANCY HORNER
SUSAN C. HULL
DEONE GRIFFITH JACKMAN
SARAH P. JAICKS
BINNIE O. KANNE

DIANA HUNT KING
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ANN S. WOLFF
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* DECEASED

2004-2005 STEERING COMMITTEE

Kate Bensen, *Chair*
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Elisa Primavera Bailey
Linda Blumberg
Gay-Young Cho
Ann Collins
Susan O'Connor Davis
Lawrie Dean
Victoria Dorgan
Janet Duchossois
Meredith Harris
Deone Jackman
Sarah Jaicks
Judy Meguire
Jean Meltzer
Ann Nagle
Carolyn Sachs
Gay Stanek
Dorie Sternberg
Marilyn Fatt Vitale
Ruth Wuorenma
Bonita C. Mall, *Executive Director*

2004-2005 PROJECTS COMMITTEE

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Gay-Young Cho
Myrna Christopherson-Kline
Ann Collins
Susan O'Connor Davis
Sondra Eisenberg
Joan Feitler
Diana King
Jill Levi
Jean Meltzer
Marion Stone
Gretel Braidwood, *Executive Secretary*



The Women's Board
The University of Chicago

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