Still Standing.

WHY WOMEN'S COLLEGES AREN'T GOING AWAY.
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FALL 2015
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In March 2009, I embarked on a great transition, moving from the roles of provost and dean of faculty at Whitman College into that of Scripps College president. Admittedly, I had a bit of trepidation regarding my new responsibilities, especially in the context of the academic climate, which will be long remembered in higher education—the global recession had left colleges like Scripps reeling with projected budgetary deficits that would take several years to alleviate.

But I was buoyed by my excitement about this community and the opportunity to build on Scripps’ legacy of excellence. And that first year was a whirlwind! I delighted in building relationships with faculty, staff, students, and parents, as well as hitting the road to get to know our remarkable alumnae. Since then, my appreciation of Scripps—a community that is complex and vibrant, grounded in curiosity and intellectual rigor, and always in pursuit of excellence—has only grown.

Scripps was on an upward trajectory when I came on board, and that has continued. For the past two years, The Princeton Review placed Scripps in the top 20 for Best Classroom Experience, Most Accessible Professors, Best Quality of Life, and Best Financial Aid, based on student surveys, and I am confident that our reputation as a premier liberal arts college will continue to expand. Scripps has evolved its curricular offerings as society has expanded opportunities for women, fostering an environment where all students reach their full potential. The collective voices of students, faculty, staff, trustees, alumnae, and parents have shaped the College’s policies and programs, and fueled its momentum.

While Scripps alumnae share a common bond, each generation has engaged deeply with the issues of its time, helping to define the campus culture, curriculum, and opportunities for today and tomorrow. It has been an honor to witness the ways our students meaningfully engage with the world as well as with each other, opening themselves to new perspectives and experiences. This is what keeps Scripps relevant and thriving. I look forward to applauding the future generations that will continue this legacy for decades to come!

LORI BETTISON-VARGA
PRESIDENT
IN THIS ISSUE

Browsing Room — 2 —

Focus on the Faculty — 12 —
A Scripps Delegation Visits Hunan Women’s University in China

Still Standing — 14 —
Why Women’s Colleges Aren’t Going Away
BY KATHRYN MASTERSON

Open Channels — 22 —
How Scripps College Is Cultivating Dialogue
BY DANIELLE DORSEY

Get Up, Stand Up! — 26 —
A Legacy of Student Activism at Scripps
BY DANIELLE DORSEY

Leading Roles — 30 —
Nike Irvin, Roxanne Wilson ’76, and Lisa Watson
Talk Leadership for the 21st Century

Alumnae News — 38 —
ManuScripps 45 | Remembrances 48
PostScripps: Katie Van Heest ’02, “Editing for Relevance” 54
Calendar 55
President Bettison-Varga Announces Her Resignation

For more information on the presidential search, visit scrippscollege.edu/president/presidential-search
In June, Scripps College President Lori Bettison-Varga announced that she would be leaving her post in October to become president and director of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. She has served as president of the College since 2009.

“It has been an honor and privilege to serve Scripps College for the past six years and to support its legacy of foundational coursework in interdisciplinary humanities, distinctive Capstone Day senior research experience, and its commitment to the liberal arts in its mission to develop future generations of women leaders,” said President Bettison-Varga in her announcement.

During her six-year tenure, President Bettison-Varga advanced Scripps’ reputation as a superior liberal arts college and a leader in women’s education. In a letter to the Scripps community, Board of Trustees Chair Mark R. Herron praised President Bettison-Varga’s performance, saying, “She has led the College with distinction for six years, building on a legacy of academic excellence, launching ambitious new strategic initiatives, advancing a comprehensive fundraising campaign, and enhancing our national and international profile.”

The Scripps College Board of Trustees has appointed Amy Marcus-Newhall, vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculty, as interim president, effective October 5. A search committee for the next Scripps president, chaired by Trustees Bob Sacks P’14 and Betsy Weinberg Smith ’74, includes faculty and student representation. A presidential search website has been established to keep the community informed about progress, key dates, and opportunities to participate in the process. It also features a survey that is open to all Scripps alumnae, faculty, students, and staff designed to collect the community’s input, feedback, and concerns.

**President Bettison-Varga’s Key Accomplishments**

- Increased admission applications by approximately 20 percent
- Protected the fiscal stability of the College during the economic recession and launched the $175 million Campaign for Scripps College, with $116 million raised to date
- Established the LASPA Center for Leadership
- Raised $20 million toward scholarships
- Initiated three building projects to enhance the academic program and campus life: The Joan and David Lincoln Ceramic Art Building, the Katharine Howard Miller ’55 Wing of the Bette Cree Edwards ’49 Humanities Building, and the NEW Hall student residence
- Developed a comprehensive sustainability initiative resulting in the reduction of water usage by more than 30 percent
- Established I.D.E.A., a campus-wide inclusion and diversity initiative
- Increased national and international visibility of the College
- Strengthened engagement with all Scripps constituencies through accessible, responsive, and results-oriented leadership
“...It is our job to disturb the comfortable. To force those who consider themselves blissfully unaffected to engage, acknowledge, learn, witness, and act. To challenge spaces that need to be challenged.”

—Spoken-word poet Sarah Kay,
from her commencement address to Scripps College graduates, May 16, 2015.
More Scripps

The $175 million More Scripps campaign raised $116 million as of June 30, making it the most successful fundraising effort in the College’s history.

Says Vice President for Institutional Advancement Michael Archibald, “We are extremely proud of the progress we have made toward our campaign goals, and we are excited about the future. We will continue this good work. With the support of our generous donors, we plan to meet or exceed our fundraising goals for the campaign’s priorities of academic excellence, national leadership, signature campus, and financial strength by 2018. Reaching the $175 million campaign goal is crucial to maintaining Scripps’ level of excellence and securing it for the future.”

In 2014–15, the College raised $24 million in new commitments for the campaign while meeting critical targets to support the annual budget. Scripps received gifts totaling $14.5 million (excluding future pledges), making this past year one of the most successful in the College’s history. Scripps alumnae, parents, and friends continued to build the Scripps Fund to historic levels. Donors contributed $3.64 million in 2015, surpassing 2014’s record-setting $3.57 million. Three million dollars of the $3.64 million supports the daily operations of the College.
MAKING WAY FOR NEW HALL

On May 15, campus community members gathered to break ground for NEW Hall, Scripps’ 10th residence hall. Initial construction of this important project was funded by an anonymous $10 million lead gift. Other key contributions include a $1.1 million gift from the Georgia B. Ridder Foundation, a $1.5 million naming gift for the Miyako Yamane ’53 Court, a $500,000 naming gift for the Annalise King Hall Court, and a $60,000 naming gift from Joan Isaacs ’71.

The environmentally sustainable residence hall, designed to meet specifications for LEED Gold certification, will eliminate the need for off-campus housing. NEW Hall will welcome its first residents in fall 2016.

For more information, visit campaign.scrippscollege.edu

SCRIPPS’ SECOND ANNUAL WEEKEND OF GIVING CHALLENGE

Campaign momentum surged over the summer as donors took part in the second annual Weekend of Giving, June 12-14. This year’s donor challenge? To collectively make at least 952 gifts—matching the number of students currently enrolled at the College. Together, Board of Trustees Chair Mark R. Herron, Campaign Chair Nancy Katayama ’77, Trustee Roger and Michele Engemann P’93, P’96, and Trustee Laura Vausbinder Hockett ’85 pledged to donate $200,000 once the 952 individual gift goal was met. A total of 1,031 donors (including 495 new donors this year) contributed a total of $555,361! Combined with the $200,000 trustee pledge, donors to the 2015 Weekend of Giving raised a total of $755,361.
Newsflash

CAMPUS WATER CONSERVATION PROJECTS
This summer, lawns at Revelle House, Jaqua Quadrangle, East-West Allée, the Sallie Tiernan Field House pool area, south of the Rose Garden, and south of the Routt Apartments were replaced with drought-tolerant ground cover in accordance with the College’s water conservation plan.

SCRIPPS PRESS PUBLISHES POWER TRIP
A meditation on the automobile and the way it shapes our lives, Power Trip was produced in an edition of 102 copies by eight students from The Claremont Colleges as part of Scripps’ Typography and the Book Arts class.

LORI BETTISON-VARGA ENDOWMENT FUND
On September 8, Scripps College announced the establishment of The Lori Bettison-Varga Endowment Fund for Student Thesis and Research Support. The fund will focus on supporting senior thesis/senior capstone projects, a Scripps tradition and the pinnacle of the College’s academic program.

5C CENTER FOR COLLABORATIVE CREATIVITY ESTABLISHED
Rick and Susan Sontag, 1964 graduates of Harvey Mudd College and Pomona College, respectively, contributed $25 million to found the Center for Collaborative Creativity, a resource that will accelerate student collaboration and creativity across The Claremont Colleges.

PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION
Amy Marcus-Newhall, vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculty, began serving as interim president October 5. Professor of History Julia Liss assumed the role of interim vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculty in August to ensure stability for the Academic Affairs division during the transition.

NEW SENIOR STAFF
New to the senior leadership team is Dean Calvo, who joins Scripps as vice president for business affairs and treasurer.
Caroline Mount ’42 was one of a contingent of Scripps College students who served in the Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps during World War II. The inscription on the reverse side of this photograph notes, “Miss Mount, in officer’s training in the Motor Transport School, has more than satisfied her interest in riding in a Jeep. She drives one.”
Scripps Establishes Sexual Assault Prevention and Support Center

This fall, Scripps College will establish the EmPOWER Center, a sexual assault prevention and support center for The Claremont Colleges. Serving students across The Claremont Consortium, the center will offer prevention, support, education, and training programs and initiatives across the consortium that address sexual assault and other forms of sexual violence, including stalking and intimate partner violence.

EmPOWER will also cultivate campus, local, regional, and national networks to identify emerging trends, adopt best practices, and deliver effective programs in the field.

Scripps will continue to maintain existing sexual assault prevention and response initiatives such as Teal Dot, which launched in 2014 across The Claremont Colleges. Named for the color traditionally used for sexual assault awareness and prevention, the Teal Dot program is a comprehensive approach to violence prevention that targets all community members as potential bystanders and seeks to engage them in prevention through awareness, education, and skills-practice.

The College also partners with Peer Advocates and Project Sister to provide safe alternatives for confidential reporting and support to survivors, and with the Scripps Advocates for Survivors of Sexual Assault to supply information about reporting processes and support available to students.

For more information, visit scrippscoll.edu/titleix
Board of Trustees Welcomes New Members

In May, Scripps College elected five new members to its Board of Trustees, two of whom are College alumnae.

**Kalpana Singh Rhodes ’95** studied social ethics at the University of Southern California after majoring in religious studies at Scripps. She is currently a founding partner with Trestle Energy, a renewable, low-carbon fuel provider. She is currently active with the ACLU, FIRST Robotics, and Cottonwood Institute. She resides in La Jolla, California, with her husband, Jamie, and their four children.

**Cheryl Scheidemantle**, parent of Sara Elaine Scheidemantle ’17, is an instrumental music instructor and conductor at Polytechnic School in Pasadena. She received her bachelor’s degree in music from Willamette University before earning her master’s at the Juilliard School and her PhD in violin performance at New York University. She has been active on several boards, including those of the Los Angeles Children’s Chorus and the Music Teachers Association of California. In 2004, she cofounded Suzuki Talent Education of Pasadena.

**David R. Scheidemantle**, also parent of Sara Elaine Scheidemantle ’17, is president and managing partner of Scheidemantle Law Group P.C. in Pasadena. He earned his bachelor’s degree in music from the Juilliard School before pursuing law at Fordham University. From 2009 until 2012, Scheidemantle was chair of the Board of Trustees of the Los Angeles Children’s Chorus; he currently serves on the board of the Los Angeles Master Chorale. In 2014, he cofounded the Scripps-Scheidemantle Legal Internship for Rising First-Years, a program that awards entering students with summer internships.

**Tori Sepand ’15**, an organizational studies major while at Scripps, is the new Recent Graduate Trustee elect. As a student, she served as an intern in the Office of the Board of Trustees. During her senior year, she was a student representative on the Office of Black Student Affairs Advisory Committee, and in 2015 she became the first recipient of the College’s Bekki Lee Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund, awarded to a student who demonstrates an interest in furthering the Scripps mission through her efforts to support education, access, and inclusion. Sepand resides in Seattle, where she is a recruiter for Amazon’s Talent Acquisition Development Program.

**Linden Havemeyer Wise**, parent of Lucie Wise ’18, is an attorney in New York City, where she has served as counsel to the Metropolitan Museum of Art since 1982. Wise earned her bachelor’s degree from Yale University and her law degree from Columbia University Law School. She is also trustee of the Chapin School in New York as well as a life trustee and former board chair of the Concord Academy in Concord, Massachusetts. Her husband, D. Scott Wise, is partner and senior counsel at Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP.
FOCUS ON THE FACULTY

Scripps at Hunan Women’s University

In June, a delegation of Scripps faculty and students traveled to Hunan Women’s University in Hunan, China.

Their journey was at the invitation of Hunan’s Women’s University (HWU) President Luo Ting, who had previously visited the Scripps campus to learn more about the College and its unique approach to women’s education. Established in 1985, HWU is the largest women’s college in China and one of only five in the country, serving approximately 9,000 undergraduates who major in subjects ranging from art and literature, to politics and law, to science and information technology. During the weeklong visit, the Scripps delegation found ways to connect with the host school via one-to-one faculty exchanges of expertise, a panel on liberal arts education, rehearsals and performances with HWU musicians, and by teaching classes such as Music by Women Composers and The Development of Social Gender that were open to HWU students and faculty alike.

According to Professor of French Thierry Boucquey, this cross-cultural exchange resulted in “very beneficial outcomes” for both sides. “We gained new insights and methodologies, shared achievements as well as challenges—such as the best ways to nurture student interests—and our discussion fostered a sense of camaraderie.”

One highlight of the visit was the “Second Concert of Women’s Artistic Leadership,” which brought Scripps and HWU together to celebrate music of both cultures and emphasize women’s contributions as composers and performers. The June 10 event followed a smaller program staged at HWU the previous year to mark Associate Professor of Music Anne Harley’s visit; this installment, attended by more than 1,500 people, included performances by Scripps faculty Gayle Blankenburg, Hao Huang, Rachel Vetter Huang, and Harley, as well as a number of HWU faculty and students. “The atmosphere was like a rock concert, with the audience milling around, talking, and cheering,” recalls Blankenburg.

The program featured traditional Chinese and Western art music, such as works by Western composers Felix Mendelssohn, Claude Debussy, and George Gershwin, as well as two movements from Sonata by Amy Beach, the first American woman.
composer to win significant national and international recognition. For Blankenburg, the opportunity to bring Western art music to China was significant, as it “is quite different from traditional Chinese art music, and Chinese teachers and students do not always have a complete understanding of it.” Trips like these, she says, “help the Chinese faculty and students learn in greater depth about the important facets and nuances of Western art music.”

The success of this Scripps endeavor highlights the need for future international trips. As Huang observes, such visits not only “strengthen ties with sister schools dedicated to higher education for women abroad, but also help raise the international profile of Scripps College as a leader in women’s higher education. In fact, several faculty have already been invited back, which is the best indication of overseas success!”

SCRIPPS’ CHINA DELEGATION

Anne Harley (Delegation leader)
Associate professor of music; chair of the Music Department

Gayle Blankenburg
Lecturer in music

Thierry Boucquey
Professor of French

Piya Chatterjee
Dorothy Cruickshank Backstrand
Chair of Gender and Women’s Studies; chair of the Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department

Hao Huang
Bessie and Cecil Frankel Endowed Chair in Music; professor of music

Rachel Vetter Huang
Adjunct professor of music

Amy Marcus-Newhall
Professor of psychology; interim president

Yuqing Lei ’18
Moore (Youming) Chen ’17
Rachel (Yinghan) Qi ’17
Still Standing.

WHY WOMEN’S COLLEGES AREN’T GOING AWAY.
When Sweet Briar College announced last March that it would shut its doors after more than 100 years of educating women, the news sent shock waves through the world of higher education. As surprised alumnae reeled, college officials pointed to a declining interest in its model—liberal arts focused, single-sex, and rural—as a trend they considered irreversible.

The announcement raised some thorny questions for women’s colleges. If a well-known institution with a decent endowment could not survive, would others follow? Could small liberal arts colleges weather the current economic environment? And in the 21st century, when the doors to most colleges and universities are open to both women and men, what particular benefits do women’s colleges even offer?

When the first U.S. women’s colleges were founded in the 19th and early 20th centuries, women were denied entry to many of the country’s private universities. The Seven Sisters grew in response to the Ivy League schools, which were all male until the 1960s and 70s. Ellen Browning Scripps, who founded Scripps College in 1926, could get a certificate but not a degree when she attended Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois, because she was a woman.

At their height, there were 230 women’s colleges in the United States. Through mergers, going coed, or closing, the number is now down to 42. Not only can women pursue advanced degrees at most higher education institutions, they now make up the majority of college students, and so women’s colleges have had to grapple with questions about their relevancy. As Sweet Briar alumnae were gearing up to fight a court challenge to keep their alma mater open—a fight that was later victorious—leaders and supporters were also having to make a public case for women’s colleges and the benefits they offer students and society.

The white gloves were off. But as anyone familiar with women’s colleges can tell you, white gloves and other genteel images are relics of a time long past.

Today’s women’s colleges are serving a widening group of students and responding to 21st-century issues. Their students are more racially and ethnically diverse than those attending coeducational institutions (six of the top 25 of U.S. News and World Report’s most ethnically diverse national liberal arts colleges are women’s colleges, including Scripps), and women’s colleges now enroll more low-income students than coed institutions. They are also institutions that place special focus on women’s leadership and student activism. And the reach of women’s colleges goes beyond the U.S. border, because these institutions are educating women from abroad who go on to be leaders in their home countries.

“I think women’s colleges are more relevant than ever before,” says Michele Ozumba, president of the Women’s College Coalition, which represents the 42 women’s colleges in the United States. Even as women have more educational choices, fields such as science and technology are still dominated by men. Pay is still not equal. Women’s colleges, dedicated to ridding the classroom of gender stereotypes and encouraging women to reach their full potential, no matter the field, have a role to play in the ongoing fight for gender equity.
Alumnae rate their educational experience at women’s colleges higher than their coed counterparts, according to a 2011 survey done for the Women’s College Coalition. In reflecting on their experiences, they describe a supportive environment of high expectations that encourages exploration and bolsters confidence—a community of strong women who speak their minds and want to see each other succeed. That community of support stretches out long after graduation, as women’s college graduates go on to take prominent roles in society. Generations of successful alumnae are serving in Congress and in the Cabinet, leading companies and colleges, and occupying prominent spots in the media.

No doubt women’s colleges are doing important work. But higher education is undergoing major shifts as it grapples with changing student demographics, concerns about affordability and stagnant family incomes, the availability of online education, and a push toward choosing schools and majors with a professional tract that parents and students believe may be more likely to lead to a job after graduation.

There is no question that colleges must be competitive to survive. In a time when many small colleges face enrollment challenges—and for institutions dependent on tuition, enrollment makes or breaks them—enrollment in women’s colleges decreased slightly from 2004 to 2012, according to federal data compiled by the Women’s College Coalition. The number of women accepted who decided to enroll—known as yield—declined, too. At the same time, there is still strong interest in women’s colleges—applications went up 53 percent from 2004 to 2012, according to coalition data.

Scripps and women’s colleges like it—those that share partnerships with coed institutions, are highly ranked for academics, have strong reputations, and are located in desirable metropolitan areas and parts of the country—are in a strong position. Scripps especially has something distinctive to offer, with its place in The Claremont Colleges and in Southern California, and its Interdisciplinary Humanities Core Curriculum. Students recognize that, and both applications and enrollment have continued to increase in recent years.

For other institutions, the situation is more mixed. In May, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, a small college in rural Indiana, was the latest women’s college to announce it would go coed. In a news release, the college president said that while there is no doubt of the power of a single-sex education, the fact that few women are willing to consider it “hinders its relevance in today’s world.”
Ozumba sees this as a positioning challenge—a need to articulate the value of the single-sex college experience to 17-year-olds who might not know the important work these institutions are doing and the distinctive experience they offer.

In addition, many women’s colleges are adding leadership or professional programs or graduate schools. Agnes Scott College in Atlanta is offering each student a leadership program that includes a team of academic and professional mentors. At Scripps, the new LASPA Center for Leadership was created to help students develop the leadership skills they need in the 21st century through internships and interactions with leaders across professions. Mary Baldwin College, which, like Sweet Briar, is located in Virginia, offers a nursing degree, a college of education, and adult degree programs for men and women, in addition to its women-only undergraduate college.

Scripps College alumna Andrea Jarrell ’84 has had the opportunity to see both sides of the question about the future of single-sex colleges.

As a proud Scripps graduate, she recognizes the deep value of her women’s college education. Yet in her professional role as a communication strategist who works with colleges and universities, she knows that if an institution does not have a key selling point—say, being part of the Claremont Consortium—or specialized mission, they will continue to flag. Some may disappear.

The no. 1 thing students consider when choosing a college is academic excellence, Jarrell says, and Scripps is in a strong position. In addition to a healthy endowment and a very desirable location both in Southern California and within the consortium, it has an accomplished faculty and a rigorous Interdisciplinary Humanities Core Curriculum that emphasizes interdisciplinary studies. “Scripps produces these thinkers who connect the dots,” she says.

Jarrell, who grew up in Los Angeles, chose to attend a women’s college because her best friend’s mother had gone to Barnard College. She chose Scripps instead of Barnard because she wasn’t yet ready to go that far away (infused with confidence after graduation, Jarrell moved to New York and now lives in the Washington, D.C., area). She knows that many women who enroll at women’s colleges didn’t set out to go to one—a college counselor or family friend often warms them to the idea. Even with their records of success, women’s colleges are not being sought out as much as they should be, in Jarrell’s opinion. Her daughter, now a college junior, strongly considered attending a women’s college and was deciding between Bryn Mawr and the University of Puget Sound. She ended up going west to Puget Sound.

For Jarrell, her years at Scripps gave her the time and space to develop her confidence, something that she thinks might not have happened so early if she had enrolled elsewhere. She later returned to Scripps to work as the director of public relations and development before starting her business. “Scripps totally changed my life,” Jarrell says. “I found my voice in a more powerful way.”
Some of the happiest students at Scripps didn’t set out to attend a women’s college.

During her college search, Mary-Catherine Riley ’18 of Arlington, Virginia, focused on equestrian programs and a location beyond the East Coast, said her parents H. Mac and Michele-Anne Riley. No one from her high school had gone to Scripps. But attending an accepted-students weekend at Scripps sealed her decision. She called her father early the next morning to say she had to go there. He recalls his normally reserved daughter getting teary eyed at a presentation. After she returned home from her first year, her father asked her about that moment. She recalled it was the first time she had ever watched an assembly of such powerful, smart women own the entire stage, a cathartic experience for her.

The spirit of that forum was what his daughter was immersed during her first year, Mac Riley said. “It’s not a one-shot deal at Scripps. It’s not a put-on, it’s what happens every day in the education of a Scripps student.”

The Rileys have become big supporters of the Scripps experience, even playing videos of Scripps commencement speakers to friends as a way to explain why their daughter is going to school 3,000 miles away. The liberal arts focus and the supportive, empowering environment has had a “breathtakingly positive impact” on their daughter, Mac Riley says. She is now considering a double major in international relations and economics.

“Even though an all-women’s college was not in her original plan, it turned out to be one of the best environments for our daughter to grow.”

— Michele-Anne Riley P’18
Isabel Smith ’16 was also looking at coed institutions during her college search—despite coming from four generations of women’s college graduates. She was drawn to coed schools because she was worried she wouldn’t have male friends, she said. She was in Claremont visiting Pitzer College when a family friend suggested she check out Scripps. When she took a tour, she described herself as blown away.

What stood out to Smith were Scripps’ academics and the focus on engagement. When it came time to apply, “I realized Scripps was the best fit for me,” Smith said. But until she got to campus for her first year, she was still nervous about attending a single-sex institution.

It was a different experience than when her mother, Priscilla Painton, executive editor of nonfiction at Simon and Schuster, chose a college. Growing up in France and not knowing much about the American college landscape, Painton says her mother gave her two choices: Smith or Mount Holyoke. She chose Mount Holyoke, where her mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother had all attended.

The women’s college experience served her well. It prepared her to be able to speak up in all-male environments and be comfortable doing so. When she became deputy editor of Time magazine, she knew how to use her voice and stand up for what she believed in. (She later returned to teach at Mount Holyoke.)

“That was the argument that my mother used to make,” Painton says. “If you go to a women’s college, you are more likely to speak up and think your opinion matters.”

Though the world has changed since she was a student, Painton insists “there is
still a value in women's colleges.” And it’s clear that Smith agrees.

“When I got there, everything about the women’s college aspect was wonderful,” Smith said. Being a part of a community of strong women made her feel confident. Her classes opened her eyes to gender stereotyping in the media and in public discourse, and made her conscious of the influences of patriarchy. She had always considered herself a feminist, but being in the Scripps environment encouraged her to examine what that really meant.

Smith is spending her second summer working for a New York City council member and considering running for office one day. While she feels she stumbled into attending a women’s college, “I really wouldn’t have it any other way.”

“Immediately it just shifted my entire identity as a woman,” Smith said. “In two months, my entire worldview changed.

Women’s colleges and their students are continuing to evolve. Their alumnae represent that evolution, from women who did not have a choice of colleges to those who did, but still picked all-women’s schools for an empowering experience. They are all part of the history and life of Scripps College, as are the current students tackling the social issues of the 21st century.

It’s an interesting time, says Jarrell, the higher education communications expert. Women’s colleges have evolved tremendously over the past 100 years and will continue to do so. Now, Scripps and other women’s colleges are continuing to evolve by opening their admissions to transgender students and looking to embrace a spectrum of genders.

What will these colleges look like in future years? “I don’t think it’s settled,” Jarrell says.

Not everyone is sure what the admissions changes and the inclusion of transgender students will mean. A recent editorial in the Wall Street Journal from a Barnard student argued against transgender-inclusive admissions policies. At the end, the writer asked, “Given the 80 percent decline in women’s colleges over the past half century, why undermine the only selling point you’ve got left?”

Amy Drayer ’09 doesn’t believe a change in admissions policy will undermine Scripps’ strengths. But she isn’t sure making space for transgender students will preserve its position as a women’s college. She was part of a group of alumnae who urged the trustees to take caution in considering the new admissions policy.

“Scripps College will thrive,” she said. “Survival isn’t an issue, but we will change. The College will change.”

Imagining a different world is part of the value of women’s colleges, says Andrea Gutierrez ’04, who works in coed higher education in California and says she came to appreciate her single-sex educational experience more after graduation, when she and her classmates moved into leadership positions in their various fields.

“It think the whole point is you’re there because you’re trying to create something new,” says Gutierrez, who plays pick-up soccer with a league that believes “to change the world, we have to change the way we play.” Rather than trying to fit into the current system, Scripps is a place where students can imagine another more inclusive and equal paradigm.
Open Channels: How Scripps College Is Cultivating Dialogue
When the nation’s first women’s colleges were established, it was during an era when women who earned advanced degrees were considered unconventional—and those who used their education to cultivate their independence were viewed as downright controversial. In the United States, women did not have access to higher education until the mid-1800s, and even then their coursework was often limited to classes in “domestic science” or “home economics.”

But in spite of the numerous challenges they faced and the battles they fought and won for the right to attend college, the majority of women admitted during those fledgling years were from similar backgrounds, tending to be from elite, well-educated families.

Of course, student demographics at women’s colleges have changed radically since the turn of the 20th century. Today’s students share their forbears’ passion for academic pursuits, professional achievement, and social change, but they represent a significantly more diverse range of experiences, communities, and perspectives.

Women’s colleges now accept a higher rate of under-represented, first-generation, and economically disadvantaged students than their public and private coeducational counterparts. Women’s colleges have seen enrollment by students of color steadily increase over the past decade; black women make up the greatest proportion of students of color enrolled, while the number of self-identified Hispanic women has risen 57 percent since 2004.

Historically, women’s college students are much more likely to be first-generation college students than those at peer liberal arts colleges; today at Scripps, first-generation students make up nearly 10 percent of the first-year class. And, according to a 2014 New York Times article on higher education, women’s colleges are currently some of the most economically diverse schools in the nation.

These demographic shifts have continued to nurture a focus on issues of equality and social justice that has been longstanding on women’s college campuses. But it has also sometimes been the source of tension, as students from divergent backgrounds have had to adjust to living and learning alongside one another. Recognizing this, Scripps has invested in resources that help increase understanding and respect between students in order to create an inclusive campus environment. Last year, the College launched the I.D.E.A. (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access) initiative in partnership with the Sustained Dialogue Campus Network and Public Conversations Project. The aim of I.D.E.A. is to enable productive dialogue, and nurture a culture where the entire Scripps community—students, faculty, staff, trustees, and alumnae—feels supported.

The College launched a variety of successful programs through I.D.E.A. over the 2014-15 academic year. Its early work involved encouraging students to share their experiences, focusing on complicated aspects of personal identity such as gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, and class—and all of their
overlapping points. More than 60 students participated in inclusivity leadership workshops and student-moderated dialogue groups that explored issues of loneliness, class, race, and religion. In addition, the President’s Advisory Committee on Diversity and Inclusion (PACDI) developed a robust set of recommendations for strengthening support for students, faculty, and staff, which were then presented to Scripps’ leadership. Faculty and staff were also invited to participate in “difficult dialogue” workshops; faculty heard from recent alumnæ about inclusivity in the classroom, and thought leaders came to campus to share their experiences and expertise on a variety of topics ranging from Islamophobia to white privilege.

Though still in its infancy, I.D.E.A. is expected to create even more opportunities for dialogue and understanding as it continues to take root on campus. As Rachel Berner-Hays ’17, a student member of PACDI and a student moderator for I.D.E.A., observes, “The first year was focused more on exposing us to Sustained Dialogue and learning the different techniques to talk about identity and how that influences our experiences at Scripps. In the program’s first year, we wanted to be intentional about applying it to different concepts and tying it in with life at Scripps so that we’re not just taking this prescription, but really trying to figure out what Scripps needs and how Sustained Dialogue can fulfill that.”

Scripps Communities of Resources and Empowerment (SCORE) is a Student Affairs office that has partnered with I.D.E.A. Now in its 13th year, SCORE provides organizational support and resources to student groups in order to promote social and political awareness within them. SCORE also houses a number of student-sponsored programs in its offices, including the Asian American Sponsor Program, which provides social, emotional, and academic support to first-year Asian American/Pacific Islander students; Café Con Leche, a forum for the discussion of social, political, and economic issues affecting Latina students; Family, a space for queer and queer-allied students to tackle personal and political issues; and Wanawake Weusi, which supports the social-economic, social-political, and spiritual well-being of students of African descent.

According to SCORE Assistant Director Victoria Verlezza, it is an ongoing effort to stay informed about issues around language and definitions pertaining to identity, and be a positive ally to the campus community. “We are constantly working together to further [Scripps’] mission. Things change very quickly, and even our office definitions are changing. My coworker and I say, ‘Wait, what are

“An inclusive environment changes your perception so that you view it as an expectation rather than an exception.”
— Rachel Berner-Hays ’17
you talking about? Then we go and educate ourselves, and then we help educate others.”

As Verlezza’s comments suggest, initiatives like I.D.E.A. and groups like SCORE are important because they facilitate productive dialogue among individual students as well as among student groups, and they help Scripps’ leadership make thoughtful, well-informed policy decisions that are responsive to student needs. In May 2015, when Scripps students demonstrated across The Claremont Colleges in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement, they expressed their concerns and the struggles they encountered on campus as a result of institutionalized racism. College President Lori Bettison-Varga responded to their protests with a message announcing her solidarity with the students and inviting them to meet with her to propose solutions for how to best address their concerns.

The ability to cultivate productive dialogue on campus has also helped guide issues around gender expression. Some campus policies have begun to change—most bathrooms on campus are gender neutral, and students are invited to share their preferred gender pronouns with faculty and peers—yet opinions still clash over where to draw the line.

In December 2014, Scripps changed the admissions policy to include students identified as female on their birth certificates as well as those who self-identify as women. This change will go into effect in fall 2016, and over the next year, through programs like I.D.E.A., Scripps aims to create awareness on campus so that any faculty, alumnae, and students who remain wary of these changes can bring their concerns to the community.

According to Berner-Hays, Scripps’ investment in promoting inclusivity on campus is important not only to the quality of the educational experience, but also for life after college. “I think an inclusive environment changes your perception so that you view it as an expectation instead of the exception. We need to create a more inclusive environment at Scripps so that more students can grow into our own, whether that be as a leader or any role we might choose.”

This intentional cultivation of an inclusive campus environment perhaps in part explains why students who enroll in women’s colleges are more committed to influencing social values, promoting racial understanding, and becoming community leaders, compared to those of peer coeducational institutions, according to a 2011 study by the Women’s College Coalition.

In Ellen Browning Scripps’ vision for the College, she stated, “The paramount obligation of a college is to develop in its students the ability to think clearly and independently, and the ability to live confidently, courageously, and hopefully.” It seems deliberate that the philanthropist and early suffragette did not mention these students’ ethnic, religious, racial, or economic backgrounds. Instead, she emphasized a quality of character, hoping to attract students who can empower each other to work together to pursue their passions. ✁
Get Up, Stand Up!

A Legacy of Student Activism at Scripps
In 1968, when construction of a new humanities building threatened the campus olive grove, Scripps College students climbed the olive trees to thwart their demolition. It was one of many successful demonstrations during that era, and students and leadership eventually reached a compromise, digging up the trees and replanting them after the new building was erected. Eight of those olive trees remain in the humanities courtyard today and are used in various sustainability and environmental projects on campus.

The students who defended the olive trees were no doubt seeking to preserve the integrity of the campus, informed by their love for the College and its traditions as well as the incipient environmental movement. When Ellen Browning Scripps founded Scripps College in 1926, she envisioned the campus as a place of great and lasting natural beauty, meant to inspire the pursuit of knowledge. But the students’ actions can also be seen as preserving another of Ellen Browning Scripps’ founding philosophies (one that underpinned all of her life’s work)—her belief that action is key to achieving a more equitable society. Scripps chose to focus her intellect, energy, and fortune on improving society through investment in public resources. In a 1919 speech to the La Jolla Women’s Club, she encouraged her peers to be “combatants in world struggle for righteousness; as workers for the good of all.”

Ellen Browning Scripps’ activist spirit still informs the character of the College; it attracts students who are engaged with the important social and political issues of their time and who have consistently brought the institution along with them in their quest for “the good of all.” As the Denison Ella Strong Library Director and Sally Preston Swan Librarian Judy Harvey Sahak ’64 says, “From the very beginning, Scripps students have felt free—free to express their opinions and to stand up against what they felt was unjustified or bad judgment.” A student during the mid- to late 1960s and a faculty member since 1976, Sahak has seen issues evolve over decades at Scripps. “Whether it was the Vietnam War, women’s rights, civil rights, or immigration, you name an issue, and there were students here advocating on behalf of it.”

Since the 1960s, Scripps students have developed potent and creative methods for protest and dissent. Devanie Candelaria Dóñez ’94 vividly remembers when students drew attention to the first Gulf War with a large display on Bowling Green Lawn. “We woke up one day, and it almost looked like Arlington Memorial; there were white gravestone markers, each one symbolizing the loss of 1,000 lives as a result of the Gulf War. The entire lawn was covered, you couldn’t walk on it, and it was incredibly impactful.”

In 1993, students from The Claremont Colleges occupied Pomona College’s Alexander Hall for two days. According to Dóñez, the seizure was the result of continued frustrations over a perceived lack of representation and support for students of color on campus. “There was so much going on internally and externally, as far as the riots and the war, and Alexander Hall was kind of the culmination of all of that. Students were just fed up.”
Ultimately, students felt they prevailed, as administration and staff began to work with them to revise hiring practices, institute aggressive affirmative action programs, and increase enrollment for minority and low-income students, as well as improve dialogue and morale for those already on campus. The next year, students launched the campus newspaper The Scripps Voice.

According to Dóñez, The Scripps Voice was born out of students’ continued desire to have a voice in administrative policies and decisions, even after the Alexander Hall protests had ceased. “To their credit,” she recalls, “administrators did participate in that dialogue, and they frequently responded with letters to the editor.”

With the advent of the Internet and social media, students have become increasingly more creative in getting their messages across. Just under two years ago, the social media app Yik Yak began taking college campuses by storm. Yik Yak is a sort of message board that allows users to post anonymously; other users can see the posts if they are within a specific geographical range. College students often post anecdotes about things they see or hear on campus, allowing peers to chime in about these happenings without actually having witnessed them.

Unfortunately, some use the app’s built-in anonymity as an opportunity to be malicious and harassing. At Scripps last winter, black students attempted to organize a series of mass die-ins at campus dining halls to protest the police killings of unarmed black citizens. They were verbally harassed and stepped on, and soon became targets for bullies on Yik Yak. Their original plan was to stage die-ins on all five Claremont Colleges campuses, but they ceased after the second demonstration, fearing for their own safety.

In response, The Claremont Colleges’ Office of Black Student Affairs (OBSA) launched a social media campaign and compiled the Yik Yak posts with the most disturbing racial content into a video. The video condemned hateful speech and showed students who were not directly affected by the harassment the severity and emotional toll it was taking on some of their classmates.

Students are split on whether social media does more good or harm in advancing social movements, but despite her mixed experiences, Black Lives Matter activist Tatissa Zunguze ’18 remains hopeful. “Yik Yak has played a large role in my unwillingness to branch out and explore the 5Cs more because it has been very hostile and racist, and it’s concerning because it offers anonymity, so it could be anyone saying these things.”

At the same time, Zunguze recognizes social media has some merits. “As I got more involved, Wanawake Weusi and OBSA ended up using social media in a way that was more empowering. I also have friends who share articles and their thoughts on Facebook, and it’s encouraging to see people show support that way. It’s also just a great tool for sharing information.”

**METHODS THAT ENDURE**

One of the most visible protests to take place over the past year at Scripps College employed strategies that defined the civil rights movement. In May, black student leaders from all five Claremont Colleges campuses wrote letters to their administrators commenting on a perceived lack of support for students of color and demanding institutional change. The students then led a march and hand delivered the letters to each of their respective presidents, with more allies joining them until their number swelled to around 200 students.
Zunguze observes that while the OBSA Yik Yak campaign got students talking, the march got them directly involved. “It was large, and everyone was supportive. We had police follow us around, and the white students volunteered themselves to serve as a barrier in case violence broke out. We got to an intersection and blocked it off for a minute, chanting the names of different black victims of police brutality.” After the march, Scripps students met with President Lori Bettison-Varga and began to set goals for the upcoming school year.

Student voices also played a prominent role in the Scripps Board of Trustees’ decision to approve an admission policy that admits applicants identified as female on their birth certificate as well as applicants who self-identify as women. Last fall, students led campus forums, made presentations to board committees, and ultimately submitted a 500-signature petition to the board expressing the view that a women’s college should be a place of inclusion, empowerment, and access to education for those experiencing gender-based oppression. The board voted in favor of the trans-inclusive admission policy in December, placing Scripps among the first women’s colleges to take a position on this national issue.

FROM ENGAGEMENT TO IMPACT

Today, the work of student activists is apparent in everything from Scripps’ recruitment policies to accommodations for marginalized student groups.

The benefits of this student activism extend far beyond the Scripps community. Empowered by a culture where policy reflects their perspectives, Scripps graduates go on to serve communities worldwide. Dóñez says, “Without a doubt, my time at Scripps and involvement in social justice activities during that time shaped who I am and raised my consciousness to the degree that brings me to this point now.”

Though methods of protest have evolved, what remains unchanged is students’ commitment to embodying Ellen Browning Scripps’ mission and cooperating with faculty, staff, alumnae, and classmates to drive conversations forward, making Scripps’ campus an environment where all are given equal opportunity to thrive. As Scripps alumna and civil rights attorney Karen Tse ’86 observes, Scripps offers “a huge window of opportunity for us to be social activists, with a vision toward both action and implementation.”
Leading Roles
Nike Irvin, Roxanne Wilson ’76, and Lisa Watson
Talk Leadership for the 21st Century

We invited LASPA Center for Leadership Director Lisa Watson to moderate a conversation between former Scripps Board of Trustees Chair Roxanne Wilson ’76 and Los Angeles community leader Nike Irvin about the changing definition of leadership for women. Their conversation took place in downtown Los Angeles on July 21, 2015.
LISA WATSON: I want to start with a brief introduction to the LASPA Center for Leadership, which is a newly established vehicle to help prepare Scripps students to be leaders in the 21st century. Right now, I’m working to develop the center’s mission, vision, and programming. We will be looking at global issues as well as local issues, organizing programs like the Next Generation speaker series, which will invite young leaders to campus to meet with students. We’re also starting a series called Up For Discussion, a sort of TED Talks for successful leaders. And we will be running a social enterprise academy that equips students with business and communications skills.

With LASPA, Scripps wants to instill the skills and attributes that are going to be necessary assets for our next generation of leaders to have. So the question I would love to start with is: What does successful leadership look like to you, and how has that definition changed from when you were students to now?

ROXANNE WILSON ’76: I am the product of Scripps, and I also I went to an all-girls high school. Actually, I had 10 years of all-girls/all-women’s education, and I always believed that was a huge advantage to me, because at Scripps, certainly, we had to lead ourselves. And we lived in the best of all possible worlds, where men were across the street so we could date them, and men were in most of our classes, but when it came to running student government, it was just us. And the net of that has been that I have never been afraid to walk into a room and be the only woman there.

Some very wise person once said 80 percent of leadership is showing up. And I think there’s a lot of truth in that. Get involved, do the heavy lifting, and you’ll rise to the top. And I think that’s still true.

NIKE IRVIN: Without the benefit of a Scripps education, or even an all-women’s education, I think I drew on a lot of wisdom from my mother, who is an only girl. She had four brothers and, like her, I was an only girl who grew up with three brothers. I think I developed a real adaptive capacity living in a world with lots of men around.

Going back to my grandma’s day, there were so many rights and privileges her generation never had. My grandmother did laundry for white families in Texas, and she didn’t want her daughter to be limited to the same few options as she had. So she enrolled my mom in a boarding school in New Orleans in the mid-1940s, which was a very unusual thing to do. And that was a big inflection point, not only for my mom, but also for my brothers and me, because I ended up going to a coed boarding school in Connecticut. So for our family, education was always the lever for change and for opportunity.

When I reflect on women whom I’ve worked with who’ve gone to all-women’s high schools or colleges, they are always the most outgoing, confident, smart, and daring people that I knew. And I knew that had a lot to do with not having to make some of the compromises that women in a coed environment seemed to have to make—not appearing as smart, having to deal with all the externalities of being popular or being attractive or whatever those things meant. I’m glad I went to coed schools, but I later observed differences in women from single-sex environments.

LW: Nike, one of the things that you say in your online bio is, “No matter the sector, smart, ethical, authentic leadership matters.” What qualities do you think are important to cultivate in order to achieve that kind of leadership?
NI: Well, that’s a very well-timed question. I just had breakfast with an intern in my office, a junior at UCLA, the first in her family to go to college, a Latina who grew up in Southgate [a suburb of Los Angeles]. She was asking what was important to becoming a leader. And I told her that the best that I could figure out is leaders are people whom other people trust. And they are able to add value in a way that’s selfless; they work in a way that goes beyond their own agenda or their own course.

I’m not imagining that successful leaders never have their own personal goals or objectives. But over time, and certainly in the philanthropic sector, we occupy ourselves with hoping to change life outcomes for others, whether it’s homeless women, or high school dropouts, or people who are coming out of prison. And I admire leaders who find a way to see around the corner and anticipate the future—anticipate changed environments in a way that may seem impossible. At the California Community Foundation, we have an initiative for first-time college students in low-income families who, based on statistics, would probably drop out. We try to find ways to support them, whether financial or otherwise, through graduation. And I think the leadership role there is one of helping not just generate the resources, but the faith that those students and families need to be successful.

RW: I’m in a profession where the ability to articulate ideas and to advocate for people is very important. But I think true leaders are visionary. They’re able to see something beyond where we are and then persuade everybody else how easy it’s going to be to get there—they can confidently say, “No problem, we can raise the money to do that,” or whatever it is that needs to be done.

Another important quality that leaders I admire share is the ability to build consensus, and the strength, once they get there, or get as close as they’re going to get, to move forward.

“Leaders are people whom other people trust. And they are able to add value in a way that’s selfless; they work in a way that goes beyond their own agenda or their own course.”

— Nike Irvin

LW: Roxanne, what skills do you think are important for good leaders to have?

LW: In the legal field, men still dominate. I’m wondering, do you build relationships the same way your male counterparts do? Is there a difference?

RW: I guess there are always going to be differences, in part because you tend to invite people to sit around your professional table that are like you. So
when I’m dealing with clients, no, I don’t take them golfing, because I don’t golf. We have to connect in other ways—through common interests or values. And I think women have a better capacity sometimes for developing those deeper relationships.

NI: I agree. I think women, whether it’s the way we’ve been socialized or the way we’re wired, are more comfortable being vulnerable with people, particularly other women. I mean sharing stories or being able to show up in a way that maybe is less than perfect, or even fragile, and that generates trust. I think men haven’t had the permission to be as vulnerable, and therefore the process of building trust manifests in different ways for them.

LW: How critical do you think a liberal arts education is to shaping successful leaders?

NI: I think of a liberal arts education as a great laboratory, where students have a chance to test ideas and learn the art of critical thinking. But it also affords things like experiential internships, externships, and job experiences that allow students to test their ideas in a workplace, or environment where they may not have the freedom they have on campus. In the workplace, you are limited by time and money and compromise, and I think it’s important to learn that along with the college education.

RW: I would add that Scripps’ interdisciplinary approach to the liberal arts education is really, really valuable. And maybe I just say that because I can feel it every day in my job, but I think being able to look at a context and understand its politics, literature, economics, and history, and knit that all together gives you a leg up in whatever you do. I know it’s an expensive educational process, but it gives you this just fabulous granite-and-gold base on which to build everything.

LW: Are there other ways you think Scripps is uniquely positioned to nurture leadership qualities in women?

NI: I think one of the things that LASPA will do is give students opportunities to take those analytical skills that are part of the academic side on the road, whether through volunteering, or internships, or study abroad.
“I think true leaders are visionary. They’re able to see something beyond where we are and then persuade everybody else how easy it’s going to be to get there.”

— Roxanne Wilson ’76
It will also help establish mentor-mentee relationships, which are so important. Again, I think that’s where women have an advantage in their capacity to share and swap stories, and ask for help and offer help, in ways that may not be as easy or familiar for men. I think that’s one of the ways we become really good adaptive leaders—by being mentored and by mentoring others.

LW: Roxanne, have mentors been important to you in your career?

RW: Yes. Because there weren’t a lot of women trial lawyers, a lot of my professional mentors have been men. And they’re pretty good at it, too. And yes, it is important to give back as a mentor. I find, as I get older, people will now pick up the phone or come by my office, asking, “Can I talk to you about this?” or “I think I want to transition to something else. Can I get your thoughts?” And part of my job is to try to make connections for them or be responsive to having a discussion or being a sounding board.

LW: Here is a question my students wanted me to ask: Has there been a time when you stepped up as a leader, even though you weren’t officially designated as the leader of an initiative or project?

NI: I think there is positional power and then there’s personal power, which is not a function of job title or authority. I’m reminded of when I moved to Silver Lake [a Los Angeles neighborhood] in the early 1990s, when people thought it was still a dangerous place to live. I thought, “Silver Lake is dangerous? Are you kidding me? I grew up in West Adams!” And yet I remember every Saturday night we would hear local gangs shooting at each other, and then someone broke into our garage. We asked the police officer, “Can you give us advice about how we prevent this from happening again?” And he said, “You move.” And I thought, “That’s not an option.”

So we decided we would try and organize ourselves. I started our own little block watch with a group of neighbors, and that was my first experience with organizing. We had an opportunity to really help turn our few blocks around and make people feel a little safer at home, and then demographically things started to shift. Not just in L.A., but in the nation, when crime rates started coming down. I often think about that as an experience of self-empowerment—those little neighbor-to-neighbor connections that, regardless of income, regardless of title, helped me remember what power and leadership really look like.

RW: That’s so true. Part of it is recognizing your own worth and what you can contribute. Certainly in what I do, litigation is always staffed with teams of people—we may have somebody who’s an expert on discovery, or somebody who’s an expert on the science, if it’s a pharmaceutical case. And they’re all leaders in their fields. I think any good leader recognizes they need to pay attention to the other expert voices in the room. And often the people who you value are the behind-the-scenes leaders—the people who are there for you to talk to, who are always going to give you honest advice, and who are going to stand up for you in public when you need them.

LW: What about our local community of women leaders? What can Scripps students learn from them?

RW: I would harken back to the idea that people in this community are dealing with specific social justice issues. That’s the kind of real-world stuff to learn about, because that’s going to influence what you decide to do, whether professionally or
philanthropically or voluntarily in your spare time. Engaging with that vast community has the potential to open our students up to all different styles of leadership. I was from Los Angeles when I attended Scripps, but for the students who aren’t, they have an opportunity to experience a unique place with complex problems.

**LW:** I agree. Two of my interns are going to be juniors this year, and they hadn’t been to Los Angeles yet. So I took them to a business-networking forum. It was such an eye-opening experience for them to meet people from outside of their community. And it’s just a short train ride away.

**NI:** You often hear about how most of the world lives on two dollars a day or less; well, there are parts of Los Angeles where that’s true too, right? The world is here. We can help students appreciate that. It’s wonderful to go abroad—everyone should have that experience—but it’s also important to see how many people who scratch to get a day’s comfort, a meal, or a bed are living right next to our office.

**LW:** Yes, it’s not that we don’t want to think and act globally, but we also need to be aware of what’s happening in our own communities. This will help us lead more effectively in any field. 🌎

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**LISA WATSON**

is the founding director of Scripps College’s LASPA Center for Leadership, which provides opportunities and resources to help students transform knowledge, passion, and ideas into action. She was formerly chief executive officer of the Downtown Women’s Center, a nonprofit that serves homeless women in Los Angeles. Watson’s accolades include recognition as one of the Annenberg Foundation’s Top 25 Vision Leaders in 2014, one of Los Angeles magazine’s Top 50 Women Changemakers in 2012, and a KCET Local Hero in 2011.

**ROXANNE WILSON ’76**

is a partner and attorney with the international law firm Reed Smith. After graduating from Scripps, Wilson earned her MA in public policy from Claremont Graduate University and her JD from Loyola University of Los Angeles. She has a long history of strong leadership and active participation in the governance of Scripps, including serving as the chair of the Board of Trustees, president of the Scripps College Alumnae Association, and chair of the Ellen Browning Scripps Association Committee.

**NIKE IRVIN**

serves as vice president, programs, at the California Community Foundation (CCF) in Los Angeles. She provides strategic leadership in priority program areas for the foundation such as arts, education, and health. Before joining CCF, Irvin served as president of the Riordan Foundation for seven years and as a consultant and coach for nonprofits and foundations. She is a graduate of Yale and the UCLA Anderson School of Management.
Alumnae News

Announcements and Updates for Alumnae and Families
“Keeping the promise.” This was the motto held closely by the Sweet Briar College alumnae who fought with all their might this past year to save their beloved alma mater from the threat of closure. They exemplified women of indomitable strength and spirit through their time, talent, and treasure. I was struck by this statement in a letter to alumnae from alumnae: “For too long, many alumnae were not engaged or effectively cultivated to give to our alma mater. That is no longer true. The tragic threat of losing Sweet Briar College has yielded new impassioned alumnae donors and rekindled the fire of our prior faithful.”

The financial strength of Scripps, as well as the bold vision for the current capital campaign, will ensure its excellence well into the future. But I see significant room for growth in terms of alumnae involvement. I wholeheartedly believe that we have a pivotal role in continuing the legacy of Scripps for future generations. Moreover, our involvement not only benefits the College, but it also strengthens our own community. As a volunteer, I am meaningfully connected to Scripps and consistently inspired by its delightfully talented and dynamic students, faculty, and staff.

Volunteer opportunities abound, from the Alumnae Student Diversity Committee, to Camp Scripps, to the Regional Associates, to the Alumnae Leadership Council, to Reunion Class Chairs. Our alumnae volunteers help sustain a community that is committed to the Scripps values highlighted throughout this issue, including leadership, inclusion, and activism. But we need you to help us carry the torch. Volunteer opportunities are available for all alumnae; I encourage you to learn more at scrippscollege.edu/engage/alumnae/volunteers. If you would like to get involved, please email me at libby@thedemeogroup.com or the Alumnae Office at alumnae@scrippscollege.edu, and we will find the right opportunity for you.

I continue to be impressed by the passion, conviction, and love for Scripps College that our community demonstrates.

With admiration for my fellow alumnae.

Cheers,

LIBBY
MARRIAGES

Chelsea Russell Spenser ’13 (San Dimas, California) I was married on June 13 at the Athenaeum in Pasadena, California, to Jason Spenser. We met while I was a senior at Scripps. Fellow alumna Devin Grenley was one of my bridesmaids!

BIRTHS AND ADOPTIONS

Solveig Elveton Bassham ’90 and her husband, David Bassham, twins, Kayla and Cole, on February 4, 2015.

Jessica Chapman-Lim ’03 (New York) On October 18 our son, Leo Jeffrey Lim, was born. I have really enjoyed the support and community that I have found through the Incipit Vita Mamas Facebook group.

Sarah Rich ’03 and her husband, Bennett Foster, a son, Eliot Oscar Rich, on April 18, 2015.

1936

Ellen Smedley Smith (Fayetteville, Arkansas) I am in very good health, living in my own home. I was fortunate to celebrate my 100th birthday with friends and family visiting here from 20 states. Lisa Carwell of the Golf Channel did a video on my birthday, “Ellen Smith: The 100-Year-Old Golfer,” which can be viewed on the channel’s website.

1948

Nancy Norton Minard (Seattle) I will always thank Scripps and the friends I met there for their impact on me, especially Caro Arnim Taylor, Doris Toney Dohn, Ginny Hemphill Simms ’49, and the entire Scripps faculty of the 1940s.

1950

Pat Lear (Reno, Nevada) I hope to finish my autobiography, Lear Jet Heiress, soon, as I’ll be 86 in June. It is hard to relive some of the bad things, like being robbed at gunpoint in my Beverly Hills home, many serious surgeries and illnesses, and a plane crash in France, but I also traveled the world, published books, graduated from Pepperdine Law School at age 60, and passed California and Nevada bar exams the first time. I thank Scripps for helping prepare me for my fabulous life! Mary Gardner Nelson (Laguna Beach, California) I am so grateful I attended Scripps with Millard Sheets as my adviser. Having the opportunity to study the humanities and spend precious time in the art department with wonderful teachers and students was a privilege beyond compare. Sonya Gray Woods (Lincoln, California) My 2015 travels will find me in Denton, Texas, for an American Liszt Society weekend (lots of good music); Ashland, Oregon, with the Scripps group; and a cruise in the South Pacific with a Road Scholar group.

1952

Kenna Hunt (San Rafael, California) I’m looking after my son, Duncan, and though I don’t audition for theater contracts anymore, I still am asked by Bay Area playwrights to do equity-based readings of their new plays—I was in Mill Valley last August and will be in San Francisco next month. Jacqueline Thompson Marsh (Adamstown, Maryland) I took a wonderful car trip to visit my youngest son and his wife and daughter in St. Paul, Minnesota. I then traveled to a resort on Gull Lake in northern Minnesota; to Jackson, Michigan, via ferry to visit my niece and her family; and on to New York, near Rochester, to celebrate my sister-in-law’s 95th birthday. It was so good to see so many family members.

Ann Perkins (Albuquerque) Fred Brossy (CMC ’52), husband of the late Franny Kay ’50, invited me to attend his birthday party in Hawaii hosted by his children. The party sounded splendid, with dinner and dancing, but sadly I was unable to attend.

1953

Mary Rhees Born (Tacoma, Washington) It is inspiring to hear about all the remarkable Scripps students and their
amazing accomplishments. Mette Mathiesen Strong (Marlborough, Massachusetts) I was on full scholarship at Scripps, and it has influenced all my academic efforts, especially my master’s in psychotherapy. I have six children, and I am still enjoying living and learning.

1954

Nancy Alpert Mower (Honolulu) I am a freelance writer who authors books for children, six of which have been published. I have eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, with two more great-grandchildren on the way.

1955

Brent Shaw Foster (San Diego) I have been busy readying paintings for the San Diego Watercolor Society 35th International Exhibition, and I am finishing watercolors to submit to the San Diego Art Institute exhibition commemorating the 100th anniversary of Balboa Park. My daughter, Rebecca Foster ’83, who lives in New York, wants some paintings of wine country for a fundraiser for her documentary film on winemaking.

1956

Elaine Drew (Monrovia, California) I am grateful for travels last year; I had two fabulous weeks in Maine and visited the Christmas markets of Alsace and the Rhine. Patricia Belcher Larson (New Fairfield, Connecticut) Alyn Brown Morton ’53 was my campus guide when I visited Scripps as a high school junior. Her enthusiasm for the College and the humanities was very influential on my decision to come to Scripps, and therefore on my life. Guide selectors and trainers take heed!

1957

Anne Arthur Gottlieb (White Plains, New York) I had a wonderful visit with classmates Valerie Read and Trisha Greico in April during a trip to see children and grandchildren in Southern California. Valerie Thom Read (Capistrano Beach, California) My husband, Larry, and I still travel on our own—we’re not ready for cruises yet! We went to Samoa (again) in March and to Kauai in November 2014. Yoga is still a central theme in my life and has no doubt contributed to my general well-being. I still teach at the Glendale YMCA as well as twice a week at home.

1958

Elizabeth Cook Mitchell (Middletown, New Jersey) Marylynn Brown Miller and I are still close friends, chatting on the phone. My son, Patrick, is a faculty association president at a community college in California and active in the state teachers union. Like me, he loves teaching, but in math rather than literature.

1960

Bobbiesue Alpert Dinwiddie (Palo Alto, California) Ken and I are enjoying retirement for him and mostly retirement for me. I still do a few inservices for early childhood education. Ken and I do a few programs each month as Wind in the Strings, me on my harp and Ken on his flute, mostly for retirement facilities. We spend a lot of time in Alexandria, Virginia, enjoying our one and only grandchild, Spencer, age 5. I’d love to hear from any classmates.

Emery Ottey Goity (Palo Alto, California) Members of the Class of ’60 who attended Suzanne Stoff Nystrom’s May 2015 memorial service in Tuscon included Melody Pourade Fleetwood, Betsy Edmonston Evans-Banks, Linda Kilham Goebel, Becky Harlow Potter, and Katie Erickson McLeod. Katherine Erickson McLeod (Green Valley, Arizona) Our class lost an outstanding woman this year upon the death of Suzanne Stoff Nystrom. She taught English and then directed the Red Cross Chapter for Arizona. My husband’s health is not great; I am fine!

Moira Moser (Hong Kong) I am living in Hong Kong and visit my son and granddaughter in Ojai several times a year.
1961
Rebecca Barber Adams (Santa Barbara, California) I enjoyed a great, stimulating mini-reunion with Chalan Colby, Carol Williams, Pam Powers, Kathie Sparling, Nancy Grippio, Betsy Collard, Carol McCrary, Lee Hall, and M’Lou Mayo—what a super Class of ’61!

Roxie Scott Stouffer (Phoenix) My granddaughter, Molly Murphy, visited Scripps and may apply. Charlene Mayne Woodcock (Berkeley, California) I am fighting the development bubble in Berkeley along with Sharon Maldonado ’66.

1963
Margaret Scrogin Chang (Bainbridge Island, Washington) Raymond and I still enjoy our retirement on Bainbridge Island. Marianne Guinney Larsen (Sioux Falls, South Dakota) Last fall, Martha Storm Dyckes, Jill Tronvig Quick, and I met on Bainbridge Island and traveled on to Vancouver and Whistler. We had dinner with Maggie Scrogin Chang and her husband, Raymond, before driving to Canada. On my drive home, I stopped to see Carolyn Prince Batchelor in Santa Rosa. This spring, Sandy Cannon Wainwright ’65 and I spent three weeks traveling in eastern Turkey, preceded by three days in Istanbul. Humanities truly came alive—50-plus years later, it’s still in our heads! Gayle Neumuth Silva (Canoga Park, California) Last year I moved into a great 1,600-square-foot manufactured home. My older granddaughter, at 15, is looking at colleges; I’m hoping she chooses Scripps.

1965
Susan Hopkins Coolidge (Petaluma, California) I can’t believe it has been 50 years! My husband, Clark, and I enjoy living in Petaluma. We are busy with travel—for his poetry and to hear jazz—and I am occupied with creative floral design, judging shows and giving programs as well as local walking tours. Sylvia Morris Young (Bath, Maine) It has been a rigorous winter here on the rocky, windy coast of Maine. My reflexology practice is going well after 37 years, and my personal life is filled with wonderful friends and some political activists. Diana Steere Wiley (Seattle) I attended our 50th reunion with my fiance, Bryan Brewer, whom I met in 2010, two years after moving to Seattle. Yes, I learned how to dance in the rain! After grieving the loss of my beloved husband, Charlie, in 2000, I rededicated myself to my profession as a relationship and sex therapist. Balancing my life are my adult daughter, son, and two grandsons—all happy and healthy! Paula Waterman (Wagram, North Carolina) I’ve moved to Wagram to be near family in my retirement. I have a perfectly good guest room if anyone wants to come for a visit. Margaret Udell Williams (Mariposa, California) I had a great summer hiking in Yosemite and Glacier National Parks and a wonderful fall traveling to Sicily with dear friend and classmate Penny Brewer to pay homage to Mt. Etna and il Duomo di Monreale.

1967
Star Langston Boetticher (Dallas) I am delighted to report that my great-niece Emma Cornwell is attending Scripps this fall! Nancy Hoffmann (New York) Leslie Lasher Monsour ’69 and I spent Memorial Day in New York at my Chelsea loft. It was great fun seeing each other again—the last time was at Camp Scripps in 1995! Leslie was on her way to a poetry conference in Connecticut, where she was conducting a workshop, but managed to celebrate the holiday in Chelsea with me. We were happy to see that neither of us has aged!

1969
Susan Ball (Black Rock, Connecticut) My wonderful husband, John Brigham, and I continue to triangulate between Connecticut, where I work and we mostly live; Massachusetts, where he teaches at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst; and Hudson, New York, where we have a country house and lots of special friends. I participate as often as possible, but not as often as I would like, in a delightful Scripps book club and supervise a very smart
young Scripps graduate, Tara Contractor ’13, who is soon to head off for a PhD in art history at my grad school alma mater, Yale. At the Bruce Museum, where I am deputy director, an exhibition I cocurated opened July 1. The Sins: Pride is a seven-museum collaboration, each featuring art on the theme of one of the seven deadly sins.

Judith Davies (Santa Monica, California) I continue to miss my friend, mentor, and guide, Aldo Casanova, who passed away in fall 2014. He used to say that over the years, the art-making process involves an exploration phase in which one’s development expands outward like branches of a tree while its roots get ready for new growth. Then at other times, the process involves bringing this exploration together, consolidating and forging a core for new inner growth, like a tree trunk. In order to grow as an artist, we must do both. Scripps always offered a “safe” place for exploration and encouragement to define myself as an artist, and instilled confidence in those early forms of self-expression. I want to share my new website, JudithDaviesSculpture.com.

Rebecca Painter (New York) I am hosting my second-ever Piano Soiree on June 26—a gathering of New York pianists and friends that has included three former students of Scripps’ revered artist-in-residence, the late Alice Shapiro: Ellen Ashcraft, Susan Gaustad, and Kazuko Hayami ’70. In February, seven pianists performed at the first soiree for friends who’d braved the bone-chilling weather.

Friday’s group promises to be larger, though Ellen will be sending her support from Colorado. A third soiree is planned for the fall.

1970

Susan Deborah King (Cumberland Foreside, Maine) My husband of 43 years, Jim Gertminian, and I moved to the Portland, Maine, area after his retirement as senior minister of Plymouth Congregational Church in Minneapolis. I will continue writing, teaching, and leading retreats. I published two books this year, One Life, One Meeting and Out of the Night’s Depths: Poetry of Poverty—Courage and Resilience. The latter was a collaboration with the Poverty Initiative of Union Theological Seminary, where I am a distinguished alum.

Mary Spiess DeJong (San Francisco) Retirement is great. My husband, George, and I have been able to spend a lot of time in San Diego. I’m still missing Linda Frick.

1971

Nancy Hay Carter (Portland, Oregon) Class of ’71 lifetime friends Sheri Cataldi Nagel, Lori Siemens Longo, and I have traveled many places together. In January 2015, we explored Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos with 11 other adventurous women. Angkor Wat was one of the spectacular spots along the way. Maggie Collins (Santa Cruz, California) Tempe Javitz and I recently returned from a rail trip through Europe, where we visited London, Brussels, Bruges, Amsterdam, Berlin, Basel, Geneva, and Paris over 26 days. There were many art museum and major tourist site visits, and all our trips have been illuminated and enriched by our humanities studies at Scripps. Molly Hoffstetter Huffman (San Francisco) I have had an eventful spring. I visited Patsy Goldman Tankersley in Austin and Janet Redding Richardson in San Martin, California. Children’s Day School opened an 18,000-square-foot middle school in a former 1919 Gothic Tudor church across from Dolores Park. Mark Jensen was our architect, and he was able to save many of the loveliest elements of the church. My grandson, Henry Courtade, turned 1 last week; my daughter, Brooke Courtade ’04, and her husband just bought a bigger house in Austin; and my son, Michael, got engaged.
2014, and we are thrilled.

Chutatip Vadnasindhu Umavijani (Bangkok) I am retired at 65, having taught at Thammasat University in Bangkok for 41 years. I fill my schedule with activities such as singing, dancing, painting, swimming, Qi Gong, and attending international conferences in bioethics and philosophy. I am also taking care of my sister, Rajit, who is now 77 and also my best friend. My elder daughter, Ploi, who studied luxury management in Paris, decided to start her perfume company, called Parfums Dusita, in France. My son, Plue, is now at Reading University, England.

1973

Deborah Wright Barrow (Chula Vista, California) In 2008, as I was nearing the end of my rewarding public service career, I came home to San Diego to serve as the director of the city’s library system. In 2013, we celebrated the completion of the long-awaited San Diego Central Library. A year later, I retired to take care of my new granddaughter. I thoroughly enjoy being a grandmother, and I take on occasional projects as a consultant.

1974

Tena Kari Mitchell (Burr Ridge, Illinois) After 32 years as a public school educator, I recently launched my holistic health-and-wellness business, Lifestyle120. My first book, Sip the Garden: Fun, Easy Drinks for a Healthier Family, was released on Amazon in March 2015.

1977

Lisa Adams (Los Angeles) In September, The CB1 Gallery in Los Angeles presented the fourth solo exhibition of paintings by Lisa Adams. America the Beautiful is a thoughtful and forecasting look at personal, natural, and political issues faced by Americans now and in the years to come.

1978

Diane Davies (Fredericksburg, Virginia) I will be touring the East Coast through the end of October.

1983

Greta Hitz Pang (Woodland Hills, California) I am busy writing and raising four teens with my husband, Scott, who celebrated his 35th anniversary as a talent agent this year. We split our time between Los Angeles and Honolulu. Next up is our 25th wedding anniversary!

1989

Julie Lyss (Seattle) After only 20 years of trying to coordinate our schedules, Julie Lyss, Misty McPhee, and Samantha McDonald finally were able to have a reunion! Fun and wine in Misty’s home of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, in celebration of the life of Misty’s dad, Clyde, who passed away in October 2014.

1990

Julie Schaefer Krell (Scottsdale, Arizona) I can’t believe we are starting to look at colleges for our high school junior—it reminds me of when I first visited Scripps, fell in love, and applied early decision. Great memories!

1992

Teresa Doniger (Washington, D.C.) I opened a private psychotherapy practice; my website is donigerlpc.com.
Oh, That’s Another Story: Images and Tales of Sag Harbor

For this collaboration, Eames collected stories and interviews about the history and residents of Sag Harbor, which Hansen illustrated. Using woodcuts on textured rice paper, Hansen hand paints the surface detail in oil after the print is pulled. Hansen’s works are in the collections of the Ruth Chandler Williamson Gallery at Scripps College; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; and the Bowdoin College Museum in Brunswick, Maine.

Sip the Garden: Fun, Easy Drinks for a Healthier Family

Mitchell has collected more than 35 easy, healthy, and delicious beverage recipes made from fruits and vegetables. The recipes are family friendly and designed to be incorporated into a lifestyle-change routine to improve overall health and well-being. Mitchell has also included fun facts and information about the ingredients used in each recipe.

The Business of Family: How to Stay Rich for Generations

This practical, user-friendly guide was conceived to help families write their own business plans. Drawing on time-tested strategies from the corporate world, Taylor provides a method that ensures families know where they’ve been, where they’re headed, and how they’re going to get there. Taylor is the CEO of the nation’s oldest investment advisory firm, Clifford Swan Investment Counsel. A participant in a fourth-generation family business, Taylor is a frequent speaker on wealth transition, family governance, and philanthropy. She is currently a Scripps College Trustee, having served as Board Chair from 2009 to 2014.
Pennsylvania) I have been enjoying the move into full-time private practice as a psychologist. It will give me a bit more time for horse riding and preparing to attend Burning Man for the first time! Thanks to Annemarie Der Scott, we were able to get tickets to go to celebrate my 35th birthday. Ellie Escher (Emmaus, Pennsylvania) I am busy with voice studies and teaching painting at Muhlenberg College. My daughter, Beatrice, was born in 2010, and son, Guy, in 2013. Bo Espinosa-Setchko (Santa Monica, California) I graduated from UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine this June with MD/MPP and started pediatric residency at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles. Dawn Dorland Perry (Los Angeles) and Leah Ollman ’83 were delighted to meet by chance at an artists’ residency in Georgia. Ollman, an art critic, had returned for her second fellowship at the Hambidge Center for the Creative Arts. Perry, a recent MFA graduate in fiction, was there on fellowship to work on her novel about poverty and American class ascendance.

Minal Belani (Saratoga, California) I was married in May 2013 to Ravi Singh, a radiologist in private practice. I am an attorney practicing corporate litigation for business for Chugh LLP. Our wedding was in San Jose, California, and several alumnae attended, including Megan Freeman, Courtney Mayeda, Sarah Rich, Lauren Todd, and Alicia Albo. Caitlin Phillips LeGros (Rochester, New York) I am a certified nurse midwife and women’s health practitioner at the university here, and my husband, Robin, is a medical resident. We welcomed our second child in April. We are looking forward to some time off this summer, and I plan to keep connected with other Scripps moms through Incipit Vita Nova Mamas on Facebook. Sarah Rich (Atlanta) I recently started a new job as a staff attorney for the Southern Poverty Law Center’s Immigrant Justice project in Atlanta, focusing on employment and civil rights law. Shaun Tamaribuchi-Keiser (San Francisco) I am celebrating my first year of marriage to my wife, Yuki Keiser, whom I met while living in Tokyo. It is also the 10-year anniversary of my company Pink & White Productions, and I recently opened my own gym in Oakland, Four Elements Fitness. Both companies are queer and POC owned.

Melissa Hudson Spencer (Los Angeles) I earned a BFA from Southern Methodist University and a Certified Gemologist designation from the Gemological Institute of America. After working for jewelry designers in San Diego and Beverly Hills, I launched my own business, Spencer Fine Jewelry.

Tessa Ely (Pahoa, Hawaii) I married Michael Foxly in May 2012 and moved to Pahoa last year. I’m loving life in paradise!

Rachel Berman (Studio City, California) My first novel, Aerendgast: The Lost History of Jane Austen, is available on Amazon. I’m currently the managing editor/head writer of Oh My Disney, the largest official Disney blog.

Rochelle Bailis (Santa Monica, California) I started in January as the director of content strategy at Shopzilla and recently founded my own business, StoryCraft. Lauren Bahedry (Los Angeles) I just completed my second year teaching middle school English at Sierra Canyon School in Chatsworth, California. This year, my students and I began the school’s first-ever middle school publication, The InkSlinger. After five amazing summers that took me to Santa Fe, Oxford, and Vermont, I graduated in 2014 from Middlebury College with a master’s degree in English. Shawna Foster (Los Angeles) For the past year I have served as the associate director of...
the University of Southern California Associates and will begin my MPA in public administration there in the fall. **Kathryn Frazier** (Woonsocket, Rhode Island) I graduated with my PhD in psychology from Clark University and will be the 2015-16 visiting scholar in the Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies program at Northeastern University, Boston, where I also teach in the psychology department. **Laura Loesch Harrison** (Pasadena, California) I received my PhD from the California Institute of Technology in computation and neural systems, with an emphasis in social neuroscience. I am a postdoctoral scholar at the University of Southern California, where I investigate social processing in the brains of children with autism. I am also continuing my research at Caltech as a visiting scholar. **Kate Kosco** (New York) I recently graduated with an MBA from Columbia Business School, and I am working in New York as an experiential marketing manager for Anheuser-Busch InBev. **Denise Minton** (New York) I finished my PhD in biomedical sciences at Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences. My doctoral research focused on the biology of kidney cancer. In the fall, I am starting a postdoctoral fellowship at New York University Langone Medical Center, where I will continue to do cancer research.

**2010**

**Katherine Erickson** After three years of rigorous courses, legal and policy internships, and clinical experience in civil rights and international human rights, I graduated from New York University Law School in May. Thanks to Professors Rachlin, Roberts, and Williams for their kind words and encouragement during law school! Next year, I’ll be in Washington, D.C., at the Simon-Skjodt Center for the Prevention of Genocide as a Masiyiwa Fellow. **Zeenat Hassan** (Placentia, California) I am a staff attorney at Public Law Center in Santa Ana.

**2013**

**Mia Cooledge** (Bellevue, Washington) I am starting a web design company, Handspun Designs; the website is handspundesigns.com. **Lily Foss** (Manchester, New Hampshire) I finished my AmeriCorps VISTA service and will be starting law school at Temple University. My experiences in the workplace and the feminist ideals I developed at Scripps have inspired me to practice employment discrimination law. **Christina Noriega** (Austin) I completed two years toward a PhD in government at the University of Texas at Austin. My high school sweetheart, Joshua Bambrick, and I recently got engaged. **Natasha Pabrai** (San Diego) After switching jobs in December, I’m now working for IBM.

**2014**

**Laura Jones** (Houston) I am working as a fourth-grade teacher with the Teach For America program.
ROWS 1–3, FROM LEFT
Mary Beth Stewart Wedberg ’39, Elizabeth “Biz” Merrick Balderston ’40, and Joan Myrick Wilcox ’48; Beverly Swager Woods ’49, Joyce Hansen Christopher ’55, and Julie Klein Gibson ’59, Suzanne Stoff Nystrom ’60 and Catherine E. Coulson ’65
The College has learned of the deaths of the following alumnae:

1936

Bertha Bakewell “Betty” Harding, of Rutland, Vermont, on October 6, 2008. After studying French and music at Scripps, Betty was an executive secretary at the University of California Radiation Laboratory until the end of the Manhattan Project. In 1945, she married physicist John Marion Harding. She is survived by her daughter and two grandchildren.

1939

Mary Beth Stewart Wedberg, of San Diego, on July 14, 2015. After graduating from Scripps, Mary Beth earned a master’s degree in immunology from Yale University. In 1941, she married and moved to Connecticut, where her husband worked as the department head of microbiology at the University of Connecticut. In 1969, the couple moved to San Diego. Mary Beth was a published poet and kept numerous travel diaries, having visited all five continents.

1940

Elizabeth “Biz” Merrick Balderston, of Corona del Mar, California, on May 28, 2015. Biz majored in psychology at Scripps and married soon after graduating. Her husband was killed in the Pacific Theater. In 1945, she remarried and settled in La Cañada, California, where she raised their five children. Biz was active in the Scripps College Alumnae Association throughout her life. She is survived by her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

1943

Margaret Cary Lieb, of San Diego, on February 28, 2015. Margaret married William “Billy” Reynolds Lieb in 1949, and lived in Los Angeles for more than 20 years, moving to San Diego in 1968. She is survived by her two daughters and two grandsons.

1945

Eleanor “Ellie” Cosby Anderson, of Auburn, California, on January 30, 2015. Ellie married Bud Anderson, a decorated combat fighter pilot, when he returned from World War II. She was active with the Officers’ Wives’ Club and, later, Assistance League. She is survived by her husband and their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Jessie Ann Seacrest Southwick, of Old Lyme, Connecticut, on January 20, 2015. Ann attended Scripps and then the University of Nebraska, where she majored in psychology and philosophy.

She helped establish the Fellowship Place, a mental healthcare facility in New Haven, Connecticut. She is survived by her husband and three children.

1946

Jacqueline Boice Wells, of Point Loma, California, on June 26, 2015.

1948

Alicita Koenig Hamilton, of Golden, Colorado, on January 21, 2015. Alicita was a faculty member and preschool teacher in Denver University’s Speech and Hearing Department, where she implemented an experimental program to bring hearing-impaired children into mainstream society. She is survived by her husband and their children, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Joan Myrick Wilcox, of Seattle, on April 5, 2015. Joan’s four years at Scripps brought her great joy and were the source of many stories. She is survived by her two children.
1949

Ellen Montgomery Hunter, of Des Moines, on June 8, 2015. Ellen was born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, but moved to California her senior year of high school. A year after graduating from Scripps, she married John C. Hunter. Ellen participated in volunteer work around issues of racial equality, empowerment for women, and the arts and literacy. She is survived by her three sons and two grandchildren.

Beverly Swager Woods, of Antioch, California, on February 23, 2015.

Josie Lecks, of Haverford, Pennsylvania, on July 25, 2015. Josie studied literature at Scripps and headed the College’s Speakers’ Bureau, recruiting future President Richard Nixon and actor Vincent Price to lecture. She attended graduate school at the University of Pennsylvania, where she met her husband. During the 1960s, Joan was a stay-at-home mother; she later returned to the University of Pennsylvania for her master’s degree in education and became a reading specialist, teacher, and tutor. She is survived by two daughters, seven grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter.

Wendy Marshall Koch, of Arizona, on April 1, 2015. Wendy attended both Scripps and the University of Arizona. She was a devoted wife and mother, married for 50 years to her husband, Robert, who died in 2000. She is survived by her three sons and two grandchildren.

Aileen Young Nielsen, of Honolulu, on September 26, 2014. Aileen studied at Scripps and later earned a degree in teaching from UC Berkeley. She married in 1953, and in 1967, the family moved to Honolulu. She taught reading to children and non-English speakers throughout her life.

Dorothy Denebrink “Dee Dee” Rechtin, of Palos Verdes, California, on January 21, 2015. Dee Dee was a wife, mother, world traveler, and lover of art. At age 52, she enrolled in a docent-training program at Stanford University; she went on to earn an arts administration degree at Long Beach State and become a curator at Palos Verdes Art Center. She is survived by her five children and four grandchildren.

1950

Alexandra (Alix) Baigrie Perkins, on February 8, 2015. Alix was a staunch supporter of Scripps and actively participated in many College events. Her close friend and former Toll Hall roommate, Dottie Jirgel ’52, writes, “Scripps was a highlight in Alix’s long and interesting life. She loved her time there and thrived in that environment!” Alix is survived by her children.

1951

Joan Wareham Flacke, of Tucson, on June 29, 2015. After studying biology at Scripps, Joan enrolled in Harvard Medical School, where she met visiting pharmacologist Werner Flacke, whom she married in 1957. Joan’s residency was in anesthesia, and she was part of the world’s first successful surgery to reattach a severed arm. She joined the faculty of Harvard Medical School, practicing at Massachusetts General Hospital until 1970. In 1976, Joan and Werner accepted appointments in UCLA’s Department of Anesthesiology. She is survived by her three children and four grandchildren.
1955

Joyce Hansen Christopher, of Santa Paula, California, on April 26, 2015. Joyce enjoyed a long career as one of the leading doll sculptors in the United States. A student of, and later studio sculptor for, Albert Stewart, she was also a student of Millard Sheets while at Scripps, who told her that she was the best art student he had ever taught there. She is survived by her husband of more than 56 years, Paul (PO ’58), and her sister.

1956

Mary Duyvendak, of Amsterdam, on January 31, 2015.

1959

Julie Klein Gibson, of San Francisco, on July 23, 2015. Julie had a long career working in human resources for the city and county of San Francisco, where she found deep satisfaction helping people get and keep jobs. When she retired, she continued furthering her education and spent time with her family and friends. She is survived by her son and two grandsons.

1960

Suzanne Stoft Nystrom, of Tucson, on March 27, 2015. Suzanne taught English, did volunteer work, and was a manager with the American Red Cross, retiring to Tucson in 2000. She is survived by her two children and grandchildren.

1965

Catherine E. Coulson, of Ashland, Oregon, on September 28, 2015. A classically trained actress, Catherine earned her master’s in fine arts from San Francisco State University after graduating from Scripps. During the 1970s, while teaching an acting workshop at the American Film Institute in Los Angeles, she met director David Lynch. He initially cast her as a nurse in his 1977 movie *Eraserhead*, but she ended up working as an assistant director on the film instead. She was married briefly to the actor Jack Nance, who starred in *Eraserhead* and also appeared on Lynch’s television series “Twin Peaks.” She later married Marc Sirinsky, with whom she had a daughter. Perhaps her most memorable role, she played the Log Lady on “Twin Peaks”; her other film and TV credits included *Twin Peaks: Fire Walk with Me*, *The Secret Life of Houses*, *Redwood Highway*, and “Portlandia.” She also performed in the Oregon Shakespeare Festival for over 22 seasons.

1968

Pamela “Pam” Smith Connolly, of La Mesa, California, on March 6, 2015. Pam was active in theatre arts at Scripps. In 1980, she earned her master’s in drama from San Diego State University and, with her husband, began operating the Old Town Theatre in San Diego. For 32 years, Pam taught theatre arts and humanities at schools including Scripps, the University of San Diego, and San Diego State University. In 1997, she and friends from The Claremont Colleges founded the Jesse Swan Scholarship, awarded to a junior or senior who shows promise in theater arts; it rotates annually between Scripps, Claremont McKenna, Harvey Mudd, and Pitzer Colleges. She is survived by her husband and their children.

1974

Barbara Appell, of York, Pennsylvania, on October 2, 2014. After attending Scripps, Barbara earned a master’s degree in social work from the University of Baltimore. She is survived by her father, stepmother, sister, and brother.
From the Scripps Association of Families and Parent Leadership Council Cochairs

Cheryl and David Scheidemantle P’17

We are pleased to introduce ourselves as your new cochairs of the Scripps Association of Families and Parent Leadership Council. As volunteers for the College, we have the privilege of serving on the Board of Trustees, providing the community of Scripps parents with a vital seat at the table to participate in discussions and decisions about the health and vitality of the College. We are honored to represent the many other families who volunteer for Scripps and welcome all of you as fellow volunteers, and are thrilled to serve alongside you in support of our students and this great institution.

Enthralled by the theme of this issue, we asked Jennifer Lee ’17, who in 2013 cofounded the Scripps-Scheidemantle Legal Internship for Rising First Years, for her views about the value of attending a women’s college. She responded, “High school students often have the impression that students at women’s colleges drink tea, study in beautiful courtyards, and talk about feminism. Though these are all true, they do not fully capture the experience of any student at Scripps. Scripps students learn to challenge conventional notions of feminism, advocate for causes they are passionate about, and make a difference in people’s lives.” When asked about unexpected benefits, Jennifer said she feels “surrounded by incredibly supportive students who have encouraged me to pursue my passions without fear. I think this community, bonded naturally by similar experiences, fosters a sense of empowerment that is unlike that of any other.”

As your Scripps parent representatives, we are passionate about Scripps, the relevancy of women’s education, and empowering our daughter, Sara ’17, and other Scripps students for a life of achievement, advancement, and service. Passion compels action! Together with other families, please join us collectively in doing More! to contribute our time, talent, and treasure to the betterment of Scripps.

Let’s learn and contribute together. Visit www.scrippscollege.edu/engage and complete the volunteer form located under “Time, Talent, and Treasure.” The Office of Parent Engagement will contact you about upcoming career and networking activities.

Warm regards,

Cheryl and David Scheidemantle P’17
When I tell people what I do for a living, I sometimes become flypaper for linguistic pet peeves. “Oh, you’re an academic editor,” I’ll hear. “It’s sad how people misuse the word literally when what they should say is figuratively. What is this world coming to?” Tut-tut.

I appreciate the public’s interest in language; I’m a student of it myself. Yet if Scripps’ Core Curriculum taught me anything, it’s that no word means just one thing. This is a lesson I find to be evergreen. As a manuscript editor, I have come to consider it my professional obligation to defuse “language panic,” which is what happens when preferences, customs, and status signifiers masquerade as fixed rules and definitions.

Over the past year, events have led the entire Scripps community, myself included, to revisit the designation “women’s college.” Privately with friends and also in semipublic forums, I have wondered aloud about what the genitive apostrophe + s, in women’s, can mean. Long story short, I see a pretty elastic grammatical relationship between women and college. Personally, I like to think of Scripps as a “women-centric” college. But I don’t think that’s the only valid interpretation.

More important than the apostrophe + s may be women. How does that word operate in the phrase “women’s college”? Is it a gatekeeper determining who’s in and who’s out? Is it subject matter—what we all come together to discuss, shape, and constitute? Perhaps the women in “women’s college” is a placeholder, something hypothetical, whose mere presence frees us from the tedium of gender maintenance and allows us to spend our energy elsewhere.

The reality is that our most beloved words and phrases go through somewhat predictable social cycles. After enjoying favor for a time, they become laden with so many meanings that they threaten to become meaning-less. (Such is the case with literally.) This sparks a crisis— some might abandon a term entirely, others might cleave to an etymologically reductive definition and police every perceived misuse. Somewhere between these two polar reactions is a more productive form of reexamination, an approach that might yield clarity and even reinvigorate the term in question.

As we contemplate what keeps Scripps relevant to us and to society, I think we will find that the endurance of our women’s college identity depends on our embrace of flexible and responsive language.

And so: long live Scripps, the women’s college!
Mark Your Calendar

Fall 2015–Spring 2016

More Opportunity Regional Events

Oct. 21: San Francisco | Nov. 17: Chicago
Dec. 8: San Diego | Jan. 26: Los Angeles
Mar. 15: Seattle | Apr. 21: New York

scrippscollege.edu/engage/
more-opportunity-events

November–December

The Humanities Institute Fall Lecture Series

scrippscollege.edu/hi/2015-fall

October 29

Scripps Residency Experience Panel and Dinner

scrippscollege.edu/events/noon-academy/
scripps-residency-experience-panel-and-dinner

November 1

Awakening to the Environment

scrippscollege.edu/events/
the-claremont-concert/
awakening-to-the-environment

Have something to say about this issue of Scripps magazine? We welcome your thoughts and feedback. Email scrippsmagazine@scrippscollege.edu to get in touch.
ON THE COVER

Mary-Catherine Riley ’18 chose Scripps College “In order to immerse myself in a dynamic, progressive learning environment that balances academic rigor with an understanding of personal well-being, including a focus on the arts and the great outdoors. At Scripps, the identity of a student is meaningfully challenged and then reassembled to foster her development into a more confident, mindful, and tenacious young woman, ready to succeed!”

Photo by Sarah Soquel Morhaim

SPECIAL EDITION COVER ONE OF FOUR

Minjoon Kim ’16

Rachel Berner-Hayes ’17

Tatissa Zunguze ’18
ON THE COVER

Tatissa Zunguze ’18 chose Scripps College because “Here I will find my voice in an environment that will keep me challenged and motivated to expand myself and strive for more.”

Photo by Sarah Soquel Morhaim
ON THE COVER
Rachel Berner-Hayes ’17 chose Scripps College because “I wanted to be a part of this community. I knew Scripps would provide a place where I would be challenged, learn, grow, and be surrounded by passionate, kind, intelligent, and supportive people.”
Photo by Sarah Soquel Morhaim
ON THE COVER

MinJoo Kim ’16 chose Scripps College because “I had a sure feeling that this was the place where I would grow and learn about myself the most, more than any other institution. I think it had to with the women’s college aspect of it, and how confident and courageous it made me feel just thinking about being a Scripps student and growing alongside other women rather than competing against each other.”

Photo by Sarah Sequel Morhaim