

FEMALE FIRSTS ALUMNAE



1982

ELIZA WEBB '78
First Alumna Faculty Member



1984

JENNIFER BRYAN '79
First Alumna Head Varsity Coach



"Coaching was also a unique opportunity for mentoring. Though Hotchkiss still felt like the old boys club in many ways, girls' academic and athletic prowess was undeniable."

CAROLINE KENNY BURCHFIELD '77,
P'08,'10,'18
First Pioneer to Work at Hotchkiss

"My four children proudly insist they had the best childhoods possible, and I think they are right! Imagine raising your children among role models like you! Your values, hard work, intelligence, integrity, teamwork, achievement, and kindness, and you give back to your community."

1986



1992

ALLYSUNN WALKER '82
First Female Recipient of the
Community Service Award



"My Hotchkiss experience built my confidence, helped me realize who I was, helped me identify and hone my interests, and helped illuminate my leadership skills. It prepared me for the work I have done all my life and tested me at my strengths. I am grateful for the life-long friends I gained and an experience that I would not have received anywhere else. It was truly a privilege to attend."

1994

CHRISTIE GURNEY
RAWLINGS '85, P'12,'14,'19
Longest Serving Faculty Alumnae

"I loved being a dorm head and working with my proctors, coaching and being an advisor. I feel so lucky to have so many meaningful relationships that remain present in my life today."



1994

NIKKI WILLIAMS '86
First Alumna Faculty Member of
Color



"Returning to work at Hotchkiss felt like coming home. Not only did I have the opportunity to work with many of the adults I admired as a student, but I also got to help pave the way for others who, like me, never saw themselves in these classrooms. Every dream, no matter where it starts, deserves to be realized."

1995

ELIZABETH CHANDLER '82, P'10,'14
First Alumna to Write and Produce a
Motion Picture



1996

LOUISE VAN VOORHIS GLEASON '87
First Alumna to be an Olympian
(Sailing)



1999

TAMMY CUDAHY RESOR '76, P'02
First Alumna to Enroll a Child at
Hotchkiss



2000

ALLISON JANNEY '77
First Alumna to Win an Emmy, a
Golden Globe, and an Academy Award



Allison Janney '77 won multiple Emmy awards for her portrayal of C.J. Cregg, the White House Press Secretary and later Chief of Staff, in the television series The West Wing. Her career hit a high point in 2017 when she won an Academy Award and a Golden Globe award for her role in I, Tonya.

2004

ELIZABETH HINES '93, P'27
First Alumna Graduation Speaker

"When you walk out of those gates today, you walk out of them a person of power, a person with a voice. And one of the first things you will have to decide upon entering the world is how to use that power and that voice. For whose benefit you will speak out. If you will speak out at all. I hope you will use your many, different voices and stand up and fight for what you believe in."



2004

ROBIN CHANDLER '87
First Alumna Co-Director of Athletics



"I knew this was more than just a personal achievement; it was about breaking down barriers, proving that women belong at the decision-making table in sports leadership, and creating space for the next generation of women to follow."

2006

CAITLIN CAHOW '03
First Alumna to Win an Olympic
Bronze Medal (Hockey)

Playing for Team USA, Cahow won a Bronze medal at the 2006 Torino Olympics and a Silver medal at 2010 at the Vancouver Olympics.



2006

GINA KINGSBURY '00
First Alumna to Win an
Olympic Gold Medal (Hockey)



Kingsbury won her first Gold medal when she represented Team Canada during the Torino Olympics in 2006. Four year later she followed that up by winning another Gold medal at the Vancouver Games.

2009

LISA BROWN '78
First White House Staff Secretary



2014

ELLIE YOUNGBLOOD '10
First Manager of Fairfield Farm



"It is a deep honor to shape a small piece of this land that has been guarding my aspirations and nurturing my dreams for years, and I would be humbled by the opportunity to do so for the rest of my life."

2016

ALLISON JANNEY '77
First Female Alumni of
the Year Recipient

In October of 2016, Allison Janney '77 became the 83rd Alumni Award winner for her distinguished career in film, television, and theater. The first woman to receive the award, Janney has become a role model through the wide range of characters she's portrayed.



2018

DANIELLE KNAPP TURNER '03
First Alumna Head Athletic Trainer



"As a student, my favorite part of Hotchkiss was the community—the relationships I built with peers, teachers, and all the opportunities I had. That same sense of community remains my favorite thing now."

2019

HOPE REISINGER COBERA '88, P'24
First Alumna Chief
Communications Officer



2024

ROHRE TITCOMB '05
First Alumna Chief Operating Officer
of a Professional Sports Team



"My time at Hotchkiss prepared me to approach problems with rigor and discipline, and instilled in me an early self reliance and independence which set me on a course to be unafraid of and eager to tackle big problems."

2024

EMILIE BYDWELL '04
First Olympic Head Coach

"I have been working toward the dream of coaching this team and leading this program for over a decade. The USA Women's 7s team is more than a rugby team, it is a group of incredible women who have the power to inspire meaningful change in their communities and unite our country through their actions and gold medal performances."



2024

GINA KINGSBURY '00
First Alumna General Manager
of a Professional Sports Team



"My experience at Hotchkiss was one that really shaped who I am. As much as it was a great opportunity to pursue my career as an athlete, I developed academically and personally as well. I truly believe Hotchkiss gave me the tools I needed to pursue my dream of becoming an Olympian and inspired me to seek success in whatever I do."

FEMALE FIRSTS STUDENTS



In February 1973, Hotchkiss officially announced coeducation to the entire School community. The announcement sparked immediate action as the School began to examine every aspect of campus life in preparation for the arrival of female students in just 18 months. A committee was formed to address academics, athletics, and residential life, charged with ensuring that girls would have access to programs equal to those available to boys. For coeducation to succeed, it was crucial that the School commit fully, providing equal opportunities for everyone. Like any major change, it took time, but the pioneering Hotchkiss girls demonstrated their resilience and determination, leading the way with numerous “firsts” that would inspire future generations of girls. This is a celebration of many of those groundbreaking achievements.

1974-75 FIRSTS

LINDY MCCRUM '75

Artist of the Issue

by Marie Korte

Once again The Hotchkiss Record has revealed another in the search for talent in the Hotchkiss community. This week's artist of the issue is none other than Lindy McCrum, Lindy, a senior, transferred from the Elmhurst-Wheaton School because she wanted to continue her education in art with Mrs. Blanche Hiler, a new teacher also formerly of Elmhurst-Wheaton.

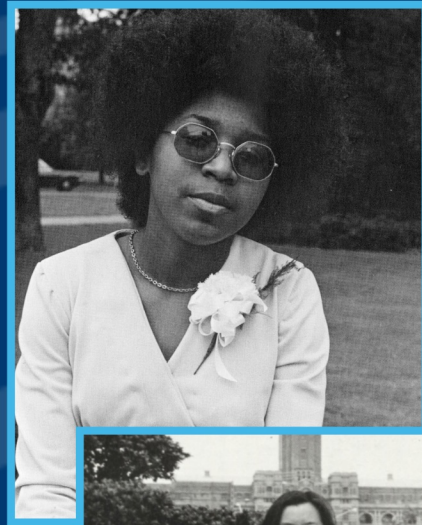


Lindy McCrum, artist extraordinaire
prior to Hotchkiss

First Female Artist of the Issue,
The Record

Queenie Rodgers '75 and Michelle Powell '77 were the first two female students of color and Gigi Pan '76 was the first Asian American female student.

QUEENIE RODGERS '75



MICHELLE POWELL '77



GIGI PAN '76

"Being in the brand-new situation of coeducation, I learned not only that it was okay to be different, but it was also beneficial to share your singular background. This confidence has helped in my professional life, both in my contribution and—much more important and fun—in learning from others."

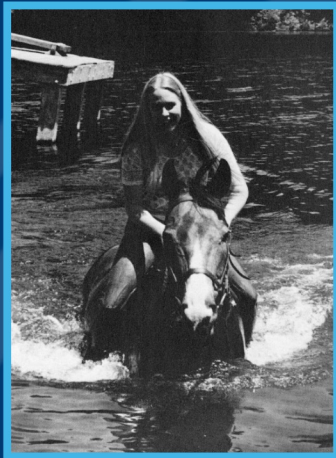
SARAH CONYNGHAM '78 & CAROLYN WILCOX '78

First Two Female Prep Boarding Students



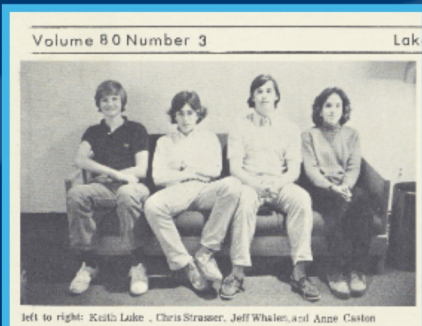
"I lucked out in getting Carolyn Wilcox for a roommate. She and I lived on the first floor of Buehler in the corner room near the Memorial quad. It was a gift! Those were important years, surpassing my college experience in poignancy and preparation."

ALLISON WEST '75



First Female Article in *The Record* called "Alice in Wonderland"

"The girls want to become integral parts of the Hotchkiss community, not set apart or alienated in any way of by any students. Although they realize they will be "guinea pigs in every way," the girls are determined to make the experiment a complete success."



ANNE CASTON '75

First Female to be on
The Record Staff



CAROL SCOTT '78



SARA EDDY '78

First Two Faculty Daughters to Attend Hotchkiss

"When I went to Hotchkiss, my dad (Arthur Eddy P'78,'80,'81 GP'23, instructor in math), understood the importance of letting me find my own path. He gave me the space to grow, to have my own experiences, and to truly learn what it meant to be independent."

LIZ SHIPTON '75 AND ANNE CASTON '75

First Female Members of the Disciplinary Committee, Fall 1974



Elizabeth Shipton, Dick Pershan, and Anne Caston, D.C. Representatives, at open school meeting.

"Liz Shipton '75 and I were voted as representatives for the Discipline Committee pretty early in the school year—probably within the first two weeks. I remember the responsibility being immense, especially because there were some serious cases we had to preside over. Confidentiality was crucial, and I learned how important it was to approach things with care and a level head. To this day, I think people trust me with sensitive matters because they know I have good judgment and can keep things private."

NONIE CLOSE '77

in *Frank Merriwell*



First Two Females to Have Leading Roles in an HDA Production

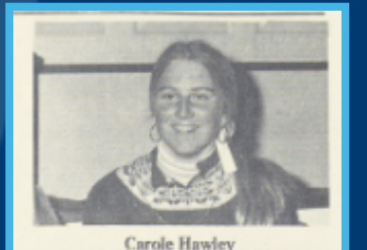
GIGI PAN '76

in *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*



CAROLE HAWLEY '75 AND LAURA KIRK '76

First Female Members of the StuFac Committee, Fall 1974



"Hotchkiss has always weighed the importance of student involvement in the decision making process very carefully. Students are now incorporated through the Student-Faculty Senate, a relatively new group at Hotchkiss. It meets weekly to discuss student life and recommend policy changes to the faculty who then have the final decision."

1975 TO PRESENT DAY FIRSTS

SALLY SLOANE '80

First Female Solo Editor in Chief of *The Record*



"Being the first lone female editor-in-chief of *The Record* was a life-shaping responsibility and definitely had an impact on my future choices. In college, I continued to work on a few papers and had an internship at the Associated Press in Rome. I went on to Columbia Journalism School and worked for ABC News for several years in New York.

I went on to earn my MBA at University of Virginia, on a fellowship for journalists interested in media management, which led to working on the business side of National Public Radio in Washington, DC. I know that the experience of being responsible for *The Record* gave me the foundation and confidence to be willing to take on new challenges."



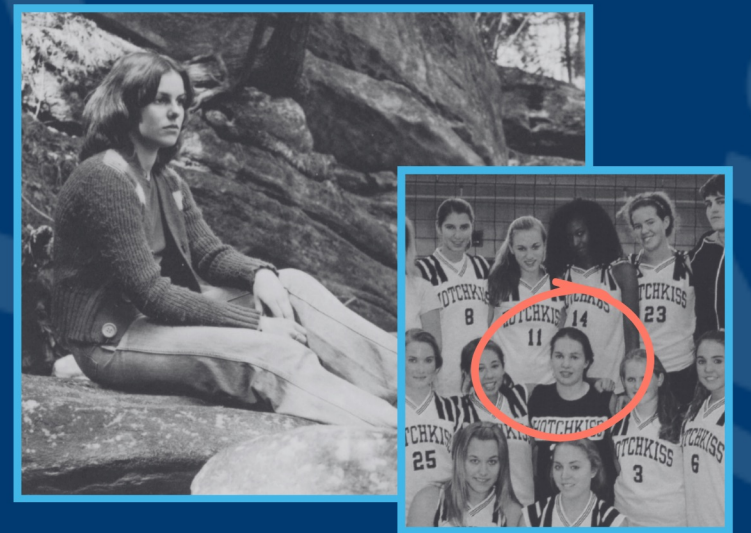
BRENDA GRASSEY '80

First Female All-School President

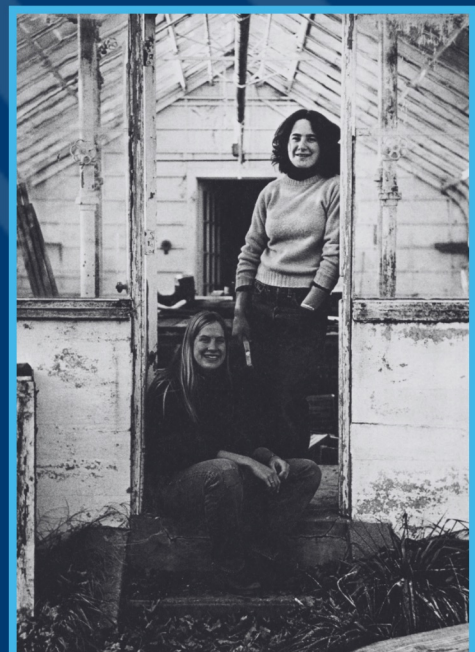
"I loved being School President! It was challenging at times with so many responsibilities (along with the academic rigor and involvement in sports), but overall, I felt overwhelming support from my peers, the faculty, and the administration. My Hotchkiss experience means a great deal to me, especially having attended when I did. The standards were very high. Character and kindness were foremost. I never felt that gender was much of an issue. I believed that we were all students with equal opportunity, care, and encouragement. Perhaps that's what ultimately served me well in my role as president."

BRIGITTE SCHULZE '76

First Alumna to have a Daughter Attend Hotchkiss



NONIE CLOSE '77 AND SUE FORTGANG '77



First Female Farmers

"Upon discovering an abandoned greenhouse on school property, my roommate, Sue Fortgang '77, and I asked the school administration if we could work on restoring it as a co-curricular project. The greenhouse renovation turned into a major project and we loved every minute of it. With donated grow lights, large ventilation fans, yards and yards of black plastic for heat retention, and an attached fish pond for nutritional irrigation for the plants, our dream became reality. I'll always remember walking into the Dining Hall with bunches of

fresh lettuce and tomatoes in the midst of a New England winter. To this day, I am a passionate organic gardener. A tribute, in part, to my formative years at Hotchkiss."

SAMEENA SHAHID '97

First Female of Color All-School President



"I truly enjoyed serving as all-school president for several reasons: first, we had the opportunity to collaborate with Headmaster Robert "Skip" Mattoon during his first year, which gave us a great platform to pitch ideas and share what we loved most about the School. Second, I stepped far outside my comfort zone alongside my co-president and friend, Dorian Anderson '97, whose larger-than-life personality, sense of humor, and willingness to break conventions, inspired me to be bolder and stand my ground when necessary. Lastly, I developed deeper connections with administrators and faculty, which only deepened my respect and admiration for the every day leaders at the School."

FIRST 4-YEAR GRADUATES



Sarah Conyngham '78, Carolyn Wilcox '78, Barbara Mahon '78, and Sara Eddy '78

MARIA ANDERSON '06

First Daughter of an Alumna

"I think what I appreciated the most about my time at Hotchkiss was the friendships I made, experiencing the lake and the woods and of course silly sweater Thursdays. I also loved perusing the library where I found Y Tu Mamá Tambiën and other surprising movies. As a student, I learned how to learn, something that has served me well as a writer, but also in my climbing and skiing life, and in my relationships with friends, family, and community."

LINDA GAVEL '78



First Female Co-Editor of *The Record*

LISA WOJAN '77



First Female Sports Editor of *The Record*

"Being co-editor of *The Record* was fun and also a grind. I don't think I was very focused on being the first female. I was more focused on just trying to do a good job. No one made a big announcement about my being the first girl. Some people - who shall remain nameless - weren't happy about my appointment though."

WIZ LIPPINCOTT '77



First Creator of the Ice Cappades Show

"Producing those shows at Hotchkiss gave me an unbelievable amount of confidence and vision for producing something as I went into college and ultimately into sports journalism, where I produced and launched several magazines for a New York publisher. What a joy and opportunity it was!"

FEMALE FIRSTS PIONEERS



CLASS OF 1975

CAROLE HAWLEY MOORE '75



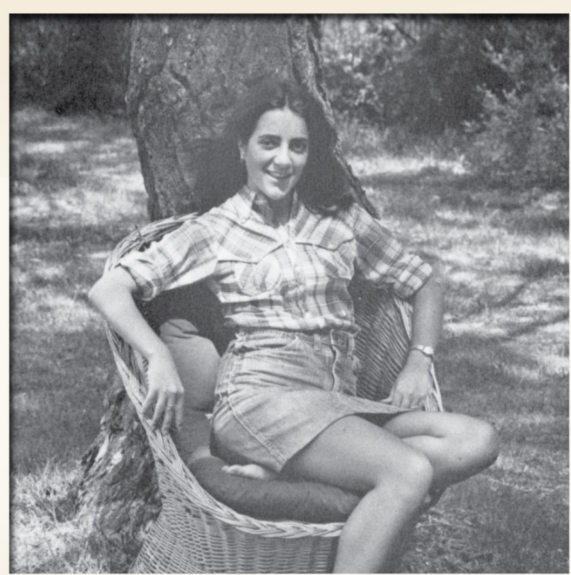
Carole Hawley '75

"I remember how it struck me at 16. It was instantaneous. I loved the school from the moment I saw it. I had an interview with George Norton Stone. He ended up being my advisor and a very significant part of my year. Whenever I was feeling down or had any issues, I could go to see him. He and his wife, Jodi, were always very warm and welcoming.

"One year in your life can be so influential. The 12 of us couldn't have been more different, but we were all really proud to become members of the Class of 1975. We

all had our strengths—intellectual abilities, artistic, free-spirits, athletics—and it was definitely a special time in the School's history."

MILENA GOMEZ '75, P'07,'13



Milena Gomez '75

"The headmistress at my school in New York City tried to dissuade me by saying that it would hinder my chances of getting into a good college. However, it was a risk I was willing to take, and since then I have taken several, all with positive outcomes. Going to Hotchkiss taught me that trying new and challenging paths in life can ultimately be rewarding.

"Being one of the pioneers was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. And while there were challenging moments like being the only girl in many of my classes, I always felt supported and encouraged.

"The School administrators and faculty wanted coeducation to succeed and thus made us feel special."

CLASS OF 1976

MELISSA HOGLUND '76, P'08



Lissa Hoglund '76

"I loved everything about Hotchkiss—my friends, my classes, my boyfriend, my teachers, my corridor faculty, staying up all night (true), checking my mailbox, taking weekends, and calling my parents collect every Sunday night. Hotchkiss changed my life in three powerful, lasting ways: First, Hotchkiss was the first place where anyone ever really asked me to think. I'd been a straight-A student for as long as I could remember, but I'd barely scratched the surface of my potential. At Hotchkiss, every teacher pushed me to dig deeper, to engage with the 99% of my brain I hadn't

even known was there. It was thrilling. Second, Hotchkiss taught me how to handle pressure. That skill has served me well every single day since then. My time at Princeton felt like a breeze compared to the intensity of Hotchkiss. Whether it's work, parenting, or just life in general, I know how to stay calm and keep pushing forward. Thank you, Hotchkiss. Finally, the friendships. The bond we all share—especially from that first year, 1974-75—has remained as strong as ever. The experience we had there connects us in ways that defy time."

HOLLY WHITNEY '76, P'12



Holly Whitney '76

"With five older siblings already out of the house, I couldn't wait for my turn to leave home and start a new chapter. I chose Hotchkiss because I wanted to surround myself with students who not only embraced their individual talents, but also worked hard to reach their goals. I knew this was the place where I could truly thrive. The idea of attending a boarding school on the brink of becoming coed was thrilling. It was comforting to know I'd be stepping into an environment where the other girls shared similar experiences. While we weren't all close friends during that first year, the shared journey united us in ways we never could have imagined.

"To me, Hotchkiss is more than just a place. It's the stunning mountains, the peaceful lake, and the woods. It's an exceptional education, the guidance of incredible teachers, and a journey of success. But above all, it's about being part of a unique sisterhood—a tribe of women who continue to shape each other's lives."

CLASS OF 1977

CAROLINE KENNY BURCHFIELD '77, P'08,'10,'18

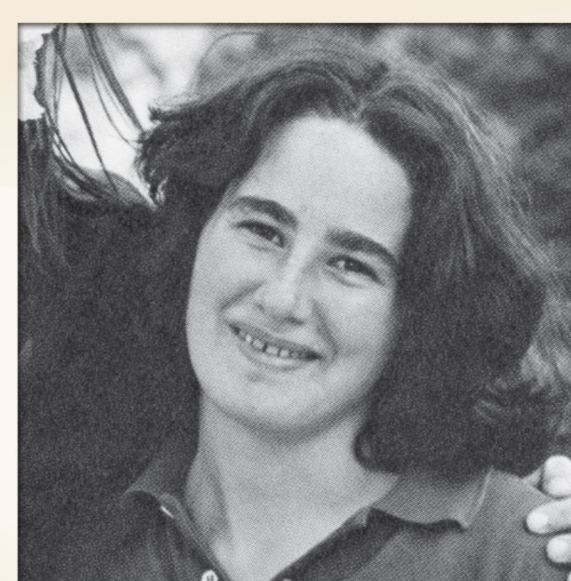


Caroline Kenny '77

"If education is your chosen career, few schools can match Hotchkiss, and as a former student, I knew that. When I took the job at Hotchkiss, I had been at Deerfield, which was still all-boys. Because I was told my upward mobility would be limited as a female, I knew I had to move on. I was offered jobs at two excellent day schools, but my husband, Chris, and I wanted to be part of a boarding school community as we wanted to spend more time with students...and those students are by far our favorite part of working at Hotchkiss!

"That said, it is because of my Hotchkiss experience that I have been able to spend my adult life in this remarkable community of people, raising my family on its exceptionally well-resourced campus, surrounded by students, faculty, and staff who always strive to do and be better. It's been an honor to spend the last 39 years at Hotchkiss, and I am deeply grateful."

SUSAN FORTGANG '77



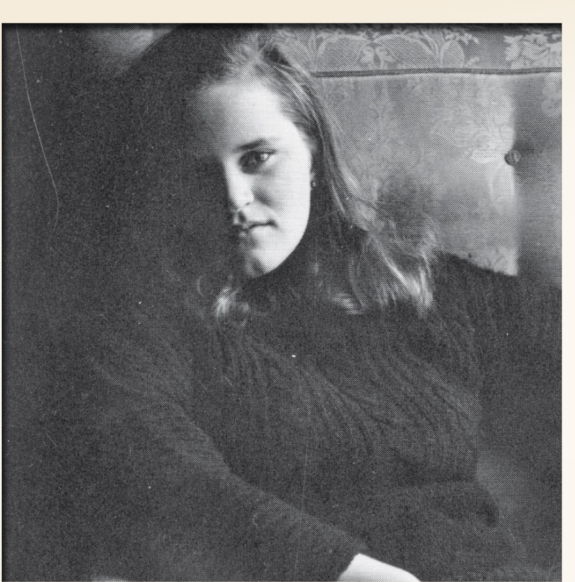
Sioux Fortgang '77

"My parents suggested applying to Hotchkiss because I wanted to get out of New York City, and it made sense for me to do so at that time in my life. Being away from home at Hotchkiss was a fantastic three-year experience. All of the girls were extremely close because we had to rely on each other to help make sense of what life was like coming into an all-boys school with a very male culture. I would say this was the biggest surprise—the deep friendships that I developed over those years.

"An unexpected highlight was having two English teachers who were more talented than any teacher I had ever had. But my favorite experiences were the times I was able to hang out in the woods with my friends and build cabins. At a recent reunion, we all went out there, and it was like no time at all had passed."

CLASS OF 1978

SARAH CONYNGHAM '78, P'05



Sarah Conyngham '78

"Although I came from a long line of Hotchkiss graduates—my father, two uncles, two cousins, and my brother, who was a senior during my prep year—I was eager for a new adventure. I was determined to be part of Hotchkiss, and there was no way I was going to let the opportunity pass by. The experience at Hotchkiss was both challenging and thrilling. I had never encountered so many talented, well-rounded, and outgoing people. I often felt young in my tendency to make mistakes, but like any young person, I learned from them. With so much to do and so much fun to be had, I embraced every opportunity."

CAROLYN WILCOX GALIETTE '78



Carolyn Wilcox '78

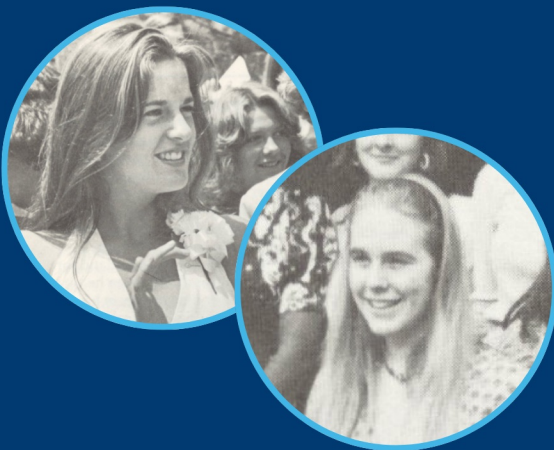
"I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to spend four years at Hotchkiss, proud of myself for seizing it, and aware of how fortunate I've been in so many ways. It was a true privilege to experience such an extraordinary place, especially at such a pivotal moment in both the School's and my own journey. I take pride in the School for honoring the 50 years of co-education and for acknowledging the challenging conversations and efforts that led us to this moment and the remarkable institution we see today."

FEMALE FIRSTS SCHOOL PRIZES



1975

LINDY MCCRUM '75 &
ALLISON WEST '75
First Two Females to
Graduate Cum Laude



ELEANOR "DUFFY" GREEN '76
First Female Recipient of
The Estill Prize



1976

BARBARA MAHON '78
First Female Recipient of
The Edwards Prize

"I never thought about being the 'first girl' to receive the Edwards Prize. I loved all of my classes, so it was easy to bring energy to them. I also loved playing team sports. I don't recall thinking about strategies at all. I just loved being a part of the Hotchkiss community. It was so easy to be all-in with everything I was involved with."



1977

ELIZABETH GLEN '77
First Female Recipient of
The Allen Prize

"I loved Hotchkiss, loved my friends, loved my teachers—I even loved staying up all night writing those blessed English papers! It was such a gift to be there. I remember feeling self-conscious and maybe not the right person for the award, but I was incredibly proud nonetheless."



1978

SARA LEBLOND '78
First Female Recipient of
The Blagden Award

"I do think the athletic side of me is the base of my Blagden qualities. I love to compete, love to work as a team, never ever am I lacking in enthusiasm (maybe because I am number nine of 10 kids...I couldn't let them intimidate me). Commanding a team as captain brought me such joy."



1980

KATRINA ROBERTS '83
First Female Recipient of
The Upson Prize



MARY NAKACHI '82
First Female Recipient of
The Newlin Prize

"Looking back, what I cherish most are the connections I made. I remember so many late-night conversations in the dorm, the camaraderie on the bus rides to and from games—the laughter and sometimes the tears—and the thought-provoking discussions in class. Those experiences shaped my time at Hotchkiss and led to friendships that have lasted a lifetime."



HILARY MULLINS '80
First Female Recipient of
The Lord Prize



1993

GISELA ALVAREZ '93
First Female Recipient of
The Centennial Prize



CARLY NOLAND '93, KRISTIN
SHERWOOD '93, AND ELIZABETH
ROGERS '93
First Female Recipients of
The Faculty Prize

"When I think back on my experience at Hotchkiss, there are many moments that stand out. I remember when my English class woke up before dawn and walked down to the lake in silence; the beauty of that morning stays with me still. I remember my cross country teammates cheering me on despite my slow speed, simply because I was part of the team. These acts of kindness helped me feel that I belonged, and that I mattered."



1975

QUEENIE RODGERS '75
First Female National Scholar

"There were so many great things at Hotchkiss like the campus, the academic classes, the athletics, the snow, the teachers, the chapel services and the dining hall. I will never forget and be forever grateful for the masters, especially Mr. Walter Crain P'86,'89 and Mr. George Anastasio P'76,'78,'81,'83."



TINA TEST '76
First Female Recipient of
The Ely Prize



1976

ELEANOR "DUFFY" GREEN '76
First Female To Be Awarded
The Moorehead Scholarship



1977

CAROLINE HAYDOCK '77
First Female Recipient of
The Headmaster's Prize

"When announcing the Headmaster's Prize, Mr. Olsen told of concern amongst some that admitting girls to Hotchkiss might adversely affect the student body's focus on academics. He then thanked me (really us) for proving them wrong."



1979

SHARON KAY TY '79
First Female Recipient of
The Olsen Prize



RITA BOYLE '80
First Female Recipient of
The Armitage Prize



1985

SOPHIE WADSWORTH '85
First Female Recipient of
The Treadway Prize



1989

KATY ANDERSON '89
First Solo Female Recipient of
The Treadway Prize

"It was such an honor to receive the Treadway Prize in 1989. I loved my three years in Lakeville. It was not an easy place, but I am so thankful to have learned the importance of being a good friend and leader in the classroom, the dorm, on the sports fields, and around campus."



1996

TEMITAYO IFAFORE '99
First Female Recipient of The Susan
Klinger Hoglund '80 Memorial Award

"Hotchkiss wasn't just about learning facts—it was about discovering new ways to see the world. My mom likes to joke that no matter where I travel, I know someone there. And that's because of Hotchkiss. The school didn't just introduce me to incredible people—it gave me a global community. And that's something I'll cherish forever."



1997

JENNIFER OBIAPI '00
First Female Recipient of
The David Lord Fitzgerald
'96 Prize



FEMALE FIRSTS FACULTY



1987

NANCY BIRD P '02,'03
First Female Director of Health Center
"In my 25 years at Hotchkiss, it was not always easy to promote change, but the School was usually willing to examine itself and seek better ways to be. I worked very hard, and by the time I retired in 2013, I felt the School had really grown to support and appreciate what I had done as well as the overall concept of holistic health care and counseling."



1994

PAT REDD JOHNSON
First Female Director of Multicultural Programs, Longest Serving Advisor to BaHSA
"As we all continue to work together to deliver this School, schools like this School, and ultimately schools not like this School to the same forward-thinking place—one in which all people experience safety, trust, respect, belonging, and inclusion, such that they can dare take the risks necessary to become great and so be of service to others—the emotional intelligence and cultural competence we know we must develop to achieve our goal will be Pat's legacy."
- Kevin Hicks, 13th Head of School



1995

NANCY BIRD P'02,'03 AND NANCY GAYNOR P'99,'04
Human Development Curriculum Co-Founders
"As the time demands on students and faculty grew, I realized that we had to attempt to incorporate a health curriculum into the School's academic program. Nancy Gaynor, who had become the Director of Counseling, worked hand and hand with me in developing the concept of a Human Development program. We both felt that having older students working with younger students in the classroom would enhance the learning experience. We also knew from our work with students at the School, that they were anxious to have more opportunities to explore the challenges of adolescence, especially while living away from home. Thus began the HD program in 1996."



2013

HELLEN HOM-DIAMOND
First Female Communications Officer



2018

DR. RACHEL MYERS
First Female Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

"It wasn't difficult to be the first woman Director of DEI because I was already standing on the shoulders of great women at Hotchkiss. The legacy of Patricia Redd Johnson, former senior associate dean of admission, director of multicultural programs, and advisor of the Black and Hispanic Student Alliance (1994-2014) was well-known to me. Amazing women like Pat helped to create the space for me to grow and thrive while at Hotchkiss."



1987

KRISTINA CHANDLER
First Female Director of Development



1987

SARAH TAMES
First Female Faculty Graduation Speaker
First Female Mischianza Dedication
"There is no woman, no man on this campus who has had such a profound effect on our class as she has. For that, we are eternally grateful. As a friend, confidant, teacher, and coach, Sarah Tames has been sincere, open, and trusting; she is always there when you need her. She induces honesty and individuality. Through her, we have learned to seek out the unknown, accept people for who they are, and understand that differences are not better or worse, merely different. Through her, we have learned how to be ourselves, and we will never forget her."
- The 1987 Mischianza



1995

BETSY BECK P'04,'06,'09
First Female Director of College Advising
"Ultimately, I really appreciated being in the role of director. I enjoyed building a team of advisors, it was wonderful to work closely with students and their families as they considered their post-Hotchkiss plans, and it was an honor to serve in the administration with a variety of thoughtful and talented people. There were many, many men who supported me all along the way. There was also a core group of women who were navigating the transitional turbulence as we continued to try and level the playing field for our girls."



2009

SARAH TAMES
First Female Lufkin Prize Recipient
"I suspect I felt the same way that everybody else who has received the Lufkin Prize feels. Humbled and undeserving. And I'm incredibly grateful. At that time, I don't think I took in the notion that I was the first female recipient. I was the second recipient, having followed a dear friend of mine, which humbled me even more because he was so magnificent. I still have most of the money that came with that prize. I try to live up to the description of that prize in terms of how I use that money, so it taught me a great deal about humility."



2018

DR. MERRILEE MARDON
First Female Associate Head of School



2019

SANDY LYNCH
First Female Chief Financial Officer



2023

DR. AMBER DOUGLAS
First Female of Color Associate Head of School



FEMALE FIRSTS FACULTY



The first female faculty members were instrumental in guiding Hotchkiss through its transition to coeducation. Their presence enriched the classroom experience and fostered a more inclusive and balanced atmosphere. These pioneering women shared their expertise, broke down barriers, and showcased the importance of female leadership in education.

Their impact extended far beyond teaching; they became mentors and champions for gender equality, helping to cultivate a culture that valued diversity and inclusion. Their dedication helped build a foundation for future faculty and students, contributing to a stronger, more supportive community.

1973

DAGNY SODERBERG ST. JOHN
First Female Assistant Dean of Students

"For me, Hotchkiss was a turning point in my life, a time to find out who I was and put that to good use making a difference. I am also grateful for the time I spent at Hurricane Island Outward Bound School, which taught me principles I was then able to foster and grow at Hotchkiss."



1974

ANN ARCHARD SCOTT
First Female Assistant Athletic Director

"It was incredibly exciting to be one of the first women faculty members when Hotchkiss admitted girls to the student body that fall—50 years ago and counting! My role as assistant athletic director involved establishing the girls athletic program at the School. Without a doubt, my favorite part of working at Hotchkiss was the students—especially the girls. They were bright, talented, and motivated young women, destined to serve and lead in the world. It was truly an honor to be part of their journey."



1979

BLANCHE HOAR
First Female to be Awarded a Teaching Chair, The Maria S. Tinker Chair

When Blanche Hoar arrived at Hotchkiss from Ethel Walker, there were only 16 students enrolled in art. The average number of students taking art in preceding several years fluctuated between 65 and 100—about one-fifth of the student body. Mrs. Hoar worked towards "educating the community that art is a valid study" and also "for art to be elevated to a higher position in the curriculum." According to The Hotchkiss Record, "She views the Maria S. Tinker Teaching Chair as recognition for what she had accomplished and also as a compliment. When presented with the Chair she was surprised and sees it as a 'sensitive and warm honor, which is humbling.'"



1980

JULIA WU TRETHAWAY P'06,'09
First Female Asian American Faculty Member

Reflecting on her first days at Hotchkiss, Julia Trethaway remembers how far she had come from her humble beginnings. At 21, she was the youngest faculty member ever hired at the time. While her start may have seemed unremarkable, her impact was anything but. She made a lasting impression on generations of students, not just through her classes, but also through her dedication to the community. Her motto, "OMAH—Open Minds and Hearts," continues to live on today.



1981

ELENOR REID

First Female Dean of Students and First Female Class Dean

Elenor Reid was appointed Dean of Students in 1981 following a decision by then headmaster Bill Olsen that an additional dean of students was necessary as Hotchkiss went coed. He said, "Ms. Elenor Reid, Mr. Larry Becker, and Mr. Art White will each be responsible for a different class. One female lower mid felt the appointment was necessary stating, "This School has come a long way since girls were added to the student body, but it still has a long way to go. Ms. Reid is a definite step in the right direction."



1982

BECKY SNOW
First Female Head Athletic Trainer



1984

DR. PARNELL
HAGERMAN P'88,'95
First Female Dean of Admissions



1984

YVETTE BROWN
First Female African American Faculty Member



1987

SARINDA PARSONS
WILSON P'14,'17
Longest Serving Female Faculty

"Teaching is what I came here to do. It's not just about grammar and vocabulary for me—it's about helping students see the world in a new way and giving them the tools to connect with people across cultures. There's nothing more rewarding than seeing them get excited about a language or a place that I love so much. That's why I'm still here, all these years later, still doing what I've always loved."



1987

MARILYN "SAM" COUGHLIN P'91,'93
First Female Dean of Faculty

"Beyond being a mom, I was an English teacher, then Dean of Studies, acting Dean of Faculty, and finally Dean of Faculty. I loved it all and am grateful to the School for allowing me to do it all. I loved my students, from whom I learned a great deal over the course of my career, but working with my colleagues was extraordinary too. I lived and worked with some exceptional people and was given an opportunity to develop skills I never would have known I could. I had a wonderful life at Hotchkiss."



FEMALE FIRSTS FACULTY & STAFF



1948-2004 MARGARET MORGAN

FIRST FEMALE HEAD NURSE & LONGEST SERVING FEMALE STAFF MEMBER

Margaret Morgan arrived at Hotchkiss in September of 1948 fresh from St. Mary's Hospital School of Nursing in Waterbury, CT. At the time, she lived with her parents in Canaan, CT and remembers that it was Dr. Wieler himself who turned up on her doorstep to ask her to work at Hotchkiss. She agreed, happy that working at a school would give her the summers off. When Morgan arrived, the Hotchkiss Infirmary functioned as a full-fledged hospital with 32 beds, isolation rooms, oxygen tents, and surgical rooms. She retired after working for 56 years (and for three physicians) as the Director of Nurses for Hotchkiss Health Services.

MARY ZELIA PHILIPPIDES

1952-1957

FIRST FEMALE HEAD LIBRARIAN

Mary Zelia Philippides was the first 'card carrying' librarian hired to run The Edsel Ford Memorial Library. Many believed the headmaster at the time, George Van Santvoord, Hotchkiss Class of 1908, lured her away from Miss Porter's to become Hotchkiss's first librarian in 1952. Philippides graduated from Bryn Mawr College in 1927 with a degree in library science. She went on to complete doctoral studies in archaeology in 1933. She and her husband, John Philippides, a Spanish teacher at Hotchkiss, left after five years and settled in Greece. In 1958, Philippides became the librarian at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens. She retired in 1971. Philippides died in 2009 at the age of 103.



1963-1964

KATHERINE DAVIES

FIRST FEMALE "MASTER" INSTRUCTOR IN RUSSIAN

1970-1971

GERTRUDE HOEY

INSTRUCTOR IN LATIN



1971-1972

JENNIFER BARROWS
INSTRUCTOR IN THEATER



ANNIE NORCIA
INSTRUCTOR IN ART

SARAH THORNE-THOMPSEN
INSTRUCTOR IN LATIN

1972-1973

MARILYN "SAM" COUGHLIN
INSTRUCTOR IN ENGLISH



DANNY CARLISLE
INSTRUCTOR IN READING

CAROLYN DEMARAY
INSTRUCTOR IN FRENCH

ELLEN TORREY
INSTRUCTOR IN DANCE

1973-1974

ELLEN HUBBARD
INSTRUCTOR IN ENGLISH



DAGNY SODERBERG ST. JOHN
INSTRUCTOR IN GERMAN &
ASSISTANT DEAN OF STUDENTS

1974-1975

ANN ARCHARD SCOTT
ASSISTANT ATHLETIC
DIRECTOR



ELLA CROW
INSTRUCTOR IN
BIOLOGY

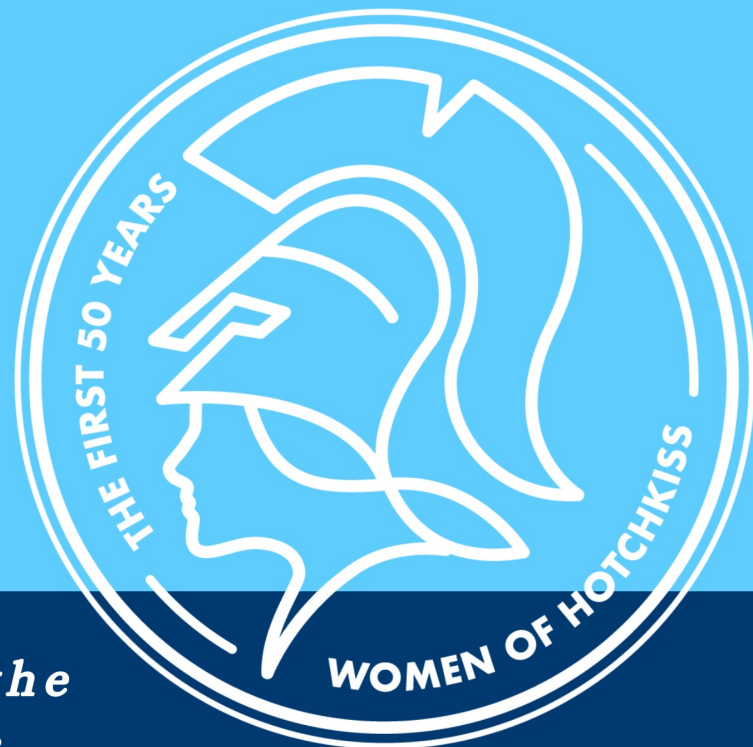


BLANCHE HOAR
INSTRUCTOR IN ART



JOANNE WALSH
INSTRUCTOR IN
MUSIC

FEMALE FIRSTS TRUSTEES



The history of female trustees on the Board began the year before girls arrived on the Hotchkiss campus. Marcia Hincks P'84 was the first trustee, elected in July 1973. Dr. Alberta Arthurs, dean of admissions and women's education at Radcliffe College, and Nancy Watson Symington P'76,'78, GP'00, joined soon after. These women provided much-needed perspective and left remarkable legacies. Symington was the first woman to become trustee emerita, and Jeannie Weinberg Rose '80, P'18 became the second (and the first alumna) when this honor was bestowed upon her in 2019, after she served as the first female president of the Board of Trustees from 2011 to 2019.

1973-74

MARCIA LOCKWOOD HINCKS, P'84
FIRST FEMALE HOTCHKISS TRUSTEE



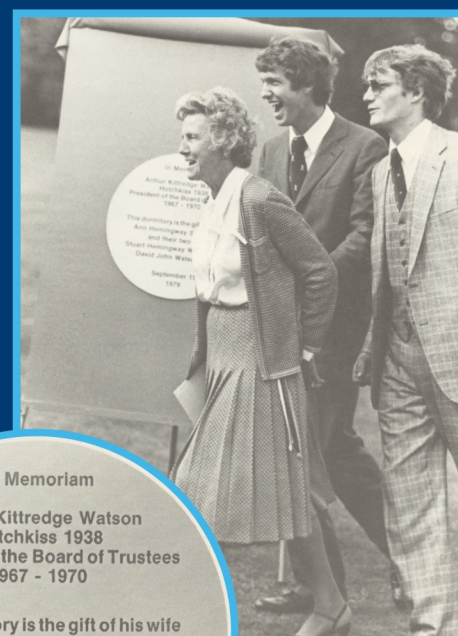
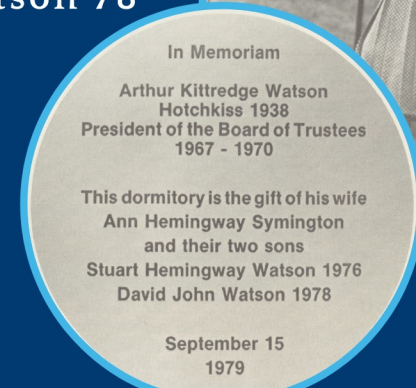
Marcia Linwood Hincks P'84: Hincks, a graduate of Bryn Mawr College and Yale Law School, was chosen as the first female trustee in 1973, in anticipation of the School becoming coeducational. Her husband was John W. Hincks '48.

1975-76

NANCY WATSON SYMINGTON P'76,'78, GP'00
FIRST FEMALE TO FUND A DORMITORY

In 1975-76, Nancy Hemingway Watson P'76,'78, GP'00, was elected to the Board of Trustees to complete the term of her late husband, Arthur K. Watson '38. She became the third woman Trustee on the Hotchkiss Board.

1979 brought about the addition of Watson Hall, the first dormitory designed especially for girls. It was the gift of Symington and her sons, Stuart Watson '76 and David Watson '78 in honor of her late husband and their father, Arthur Watson '38, board president from 1967 to 1970.



1974-75

ALBERTA ARTHURS
FIRST FEMALE GRADUATION SPEAKER, 1975 AND HOTCHKISS TRUSTEE



"In 1975, I was the dean of admissions, financial aid, and women's education at Radcliffe College, the women's college at Harvard University. It was a newly created position. At that time, Harvard and Radcliffe Colleges were largely merged, but the offices of admissions and financial aid remained separate. "Women's education" was new and meant to stimulate offerings outside the classroom for Radcliffe students. A wonderful Harvard professor, Zeph Stewart '39, a Hotchkiss alumnus and trustee, recommended me for the Board, which he knew needed women as the School began its journey to become coeducational.

"At the time, women started to infiltrate the job market in volunteer and paid positions at clubs and in sports and throughout educational institutions. I do think absorption into places like Hotchkiss (and Harvard) was particularly fraught! Yet the Hotchkiss Board was quite remarkably ready. Whether they liked change or not, all the trustees seemed to know that this leadership was essential, and that coeducation was inevitable as society was changing.

"It was a great Board, loyal to and ambitious for the School, and I felt so proud of being identified with it. I felt supported and respected by other Board members. There were issues, of course,

sometimes unexpected. I remember when incoming girls were invited to make curtains for their dorm windows, and I felt compelled to ask if the boys were also invited to do this. The answer was no, and that "activity" was dropped.

"I was asked to give the graduation address in that first year of coeducation. I suspect that we all knew, and commented on the fact, that there was—for the first time—a woman giving the Hotchkiss commencement address. I don't recall what I said, but I imagine it would have been a salute to us all at Hotchkiss and an acknowledgment of a changing society, a changing school, and the hopes we had for the futures of Hotchkiss women and men. It would have been a rousing salute to the School, its history, the students, and to equality."

1984 TO PRESENT DAY



SARAH THORNTON-CLIFFORD '76, P'07,'23



KATHA DIDDEL SUSSMAN '75, P'07,'09,'14

Starting in 1984, a new wave of women were beginning to serve on the Board of Trustees, Sarah Thornton-Clifford '76, P'07,'23 was the first alumna to be elected to the Board. Katha Diddel Sussman '75, P'07,'09,'14 was the second alumna elected in 1987. A holiday was called by headmaster, Arthur White, in their honor on October 13, 1987.



JEANNIE WEINBERG ROSE '80, P'18
FIRST ALUMNA PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, 2011-2019

"As the first female board president, I had to become more assertive and comfortable in a collaborative environment, balancing my own leadership style with the diverse perspectives around the table. The challenges were significant—blending my own style with that of others was not always easy, but it was essential.

"I also came to realize that varying opinions enrich discussions and lead to better decisions. I believe that if you know you're acting in the best interest of the institution, it makes the toughest choices easier to move forward with. It wasn't about any single moment of triumph, but about a series of choices that reflected my deep commitment to Hotchkiss. 'I love Hotchkiss, and I will do everything in my power to work for it' became my guiding principle. I was always ready to prioritize the School's well-being over personal preferences or external pressures, a mindset that remains with me today."

ELIZABETH HINES '93, P'27
FIRST ALUMNA CO-PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, 2019-2025



"I was raised in a family where when you feel gratitude for something or someone, you express it — and the way that I have come to express my gratitude for Hotchkiss is through my service on the board. I feel grateful on a daily basis for the skills, opportunities, and friendships that Hotchkiss has brought into my life.

"My greatest hope is to leave behind a thriving, healthy, inclusive institution. I hope that Hotchkiss is a place where people of all kinds feel that they belong, and that this is their school and they have a voice in it.

"I also hope that my leadership helps people understand that talent, and leaders, are everywhere. Leaders don't have to look or be a certain way in order to be effective and useful to institutions. I hope that I am not the last woman board chair, or the last person of color board chair, or the last gay board chair. I hope my leadership helps to open up that pipeline for many other people in the future."

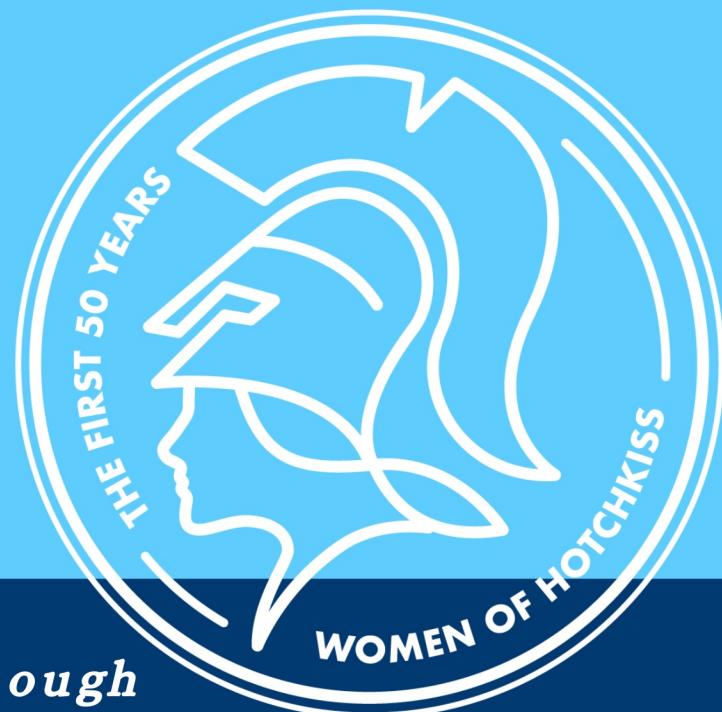


ANNE OWEN ARMFIELD '77
FIRST FEMALE PRESIDENT OF THE ANNUAL FUND, 1995-1997, AND FIRST FEMALE BOARD OF GOVERNORS PRESIDENT, 2000-2001



ALLYSUNN WALKER '82
FIRST FEMALE TRUSTEE ALUMNA OF COLOR, 1995-2000

FEMALE FIRSTS ALL-GIRL CLUBS



The first all-female club, Those Girls, was founded in 1983 by Jenn Ippoliti '85. And although this group only lasted a few years, it helped pave the way for many more all-female ensembles. One of the most enduring clubs is Calliope, which was founded in 1996. Another long-standing and impactful group is Bluestockings, which has had significant success over the past two decades.

While groups like Women for Women and Girls with Goals have come and gone, the core mission of these all-female organizations remains the same: to create a safe, supportive space where women are empowered to make a difference.

THOSE GIRLS

Founded by Jenn Ippoliti '85 in 1983-84

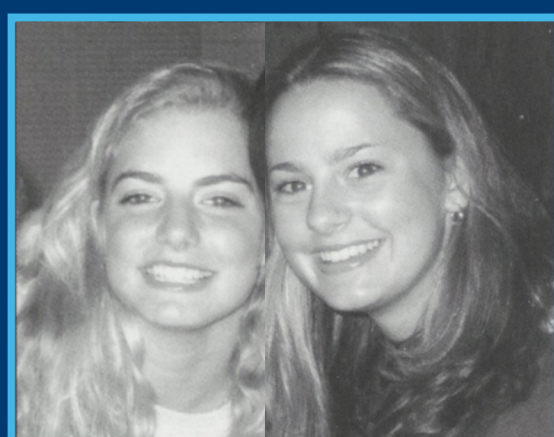


In the winter, a new student singing group made its debut at school. During the formal Christmas dinner, the all-girl group "Those Girls" treated those assembled to their version of "My Boyfriend's Back." The group was composed of nine girls and was headed by Jen Ippoliti '85. In that first year, there were three or four local coffee houses where the group performed. They also

entertained parents during the upper mid college weekend. The group lasted a few years, and there wouldn't be another all-female singing group until Calliope was started in 1996.

BLUESTOCKINGS

Founded by Natalie Pierrepont '03 and Lydia Gidwitz '03 in 2001-02



"Natalie and I wanted to create a female-only space to discuss the experience of living and going to school in an environment originally built by men, for men. So during our upper-mid year, we began a club called BlueStockings. We had no idea it would take off and be as popular as it has become and are so thankful to know we built something that still binds a community after all these years.

"Our messaging was pretty straightforward - lean on each other and embrace and encourage diversity of opinion! We all have a lot more power, more than we realize, and supporting one another - listening to one another - can help unlock it.

"The opportunities and agency to pursue new ideas at Hotchkiss gave us the confidence to ask difficult questions and have open and honest conversations in college and beyond. We are so thankful to have had the opportunity to forge so many close female friends and these friendships have been a constant source of support during our life's adventures."

- Lydia Gidwitz '03

WOMEN IN STEM

Founded by Mitra Kardestuncer '20 and Katie Moore '20 in 2019-20

"All too often, society dismisses young women passionate about math and science, and instead pushes them toward the arts and humanities. Though Hotchkiss upholds a multidisciplinary education, we wanted to create a space where young women felt eager and comfortable sharing their experiences in STEM, both in the classroom and beyond. Ultimately through the club, Katie and I wanted to accomplish this: having other young women down the line as equally committed to promoting STEM for women as we were (and still are). I'm so happy to hear that SoWiS is thriving!"

- Mitra Kardestuncer '20



GIRLS WHO LIFT

Founded in 2020-21 by Mia Nyoike '24 and Anji Ashaye '24



"We realized that many girls were hesitant to enter the weight room, so Mia and I decided to create a safe space where girls could learn and lift together. We wanted to address the fear that often comes with the male-dominated gym environment, emphasizing that everyone is there to work on themselves.

"Our club became more than just a fitness club—it was about empowering girls, promoting holistic health, and building community. We even hosted an info session with a nutritionist to help girls make healthier decisions. In the end, the most rewarding part was seeing how lifting fostered both personal growth and meaningful connections."

- Anji Ashaye '24

CALLIOPE

Founded by Jayne Kirber '99 and Caroline Johnson '99 in 1996-97



"Caroline Johnson '99 and I started Calliope in the 1997-98 school year and ran it—with the addition of Clare Dooley '99 as one of the leaders—through the spring of '99, when we graduated. We started it on our own and did not have a faculty advisor, but in our second year, Mr. Moon gave us a \$500 budget to have some popular songs arranged for us. We performed around campus and, in one case, at the Maria Hotchkiss Dinner in New York City. I understand that Calliope has grown and is thriving, which is wonderful to hear."

- Jayne Kirber '99

CAFÉ

Founded by Bobbie Alicea '18, June Perteet '18, Zayba Qamar '18, Jaida Cowan '18, and Gabby Coffy '18 in 2017-18



"Beginning in 2015 with a series of casual conversations surrounding identity as a black or brown female—and one giant sleepover hosted at my advisor's house—Café originated. Each year, the group gained more traction and more students. Finally in 2017, Café was officially founded as an affinity group. The goal was to create a safe space, empower each other, and build a friendly community. We are so glad to know Café is still providing this place for so many Hotchkiss girls."

- Jaida Cowan '18

FEMALES FOR FINANCE

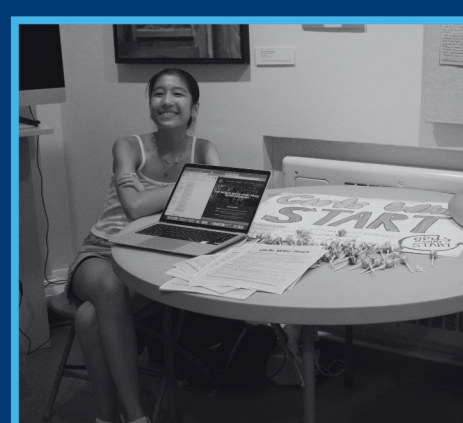
Founded in 2020-21 by Emily Bukowski '22, Darina Huang '23, and Abby Renger '23

"We founded Females for Finance because many existing business and investment clubs were predominantly male. Our goal was to create a space where girls felt empowered to expand their financial knowledge and explore potential career opportunities. Initially, maintaining engagement in the club was challenging, but we eventually found success by fostering a supportive atmosphere. We kept things fun with activities like Shark Tank watch parties, a School-wide investment competition with prizes, and guest speakers from various finance careers. While we weren't experts, we recognized the importance of getting high school girls interested in finance early, especially in a male-dominated field, given the tough job market and earlier college application cycles. "Founding F'3 was a memorable part of my Hotchkiss experience, and I'm grateful for it. It's rewarding to see girls continue to engage with the club and watch it thrive. I'm thankful for the opportunity to leave a lasting impact."

- Darina Huang '23

GIRLS WHO START

Founded in 2021-22 by Ellis Chung '25



"During the pandemic, I launched my own business, which sparked my passion for entrepreneurship. Later, I discovered Girls Who Start, an organization founded by a student from my hometown in the D.C. area. Inspired by it, I knew I wanted to get involved, so I took the initiative to establish the Hotchkiss chapter."

- Ellis Chung '25

FEMALE FIRSTS

ATHLETICS



1974 brought perhaps the greatest change to the School lineup as girls began to compete inter-scholastically. That year, teams included field hockey and soccer in the fall, basketball and swimming in the winter, and softball, tennis, and lacrosse in the spring. As the female population grew, however, a full range of girls sports—equal to that of the boys—was added to the athletic program, including cross country, volleyball, ice hockey, squash, and track and field.

Initial skeptics predicted that the addition of girls to Hotchkiss would dilute the School's strong history of athletic excellence and spirit. However, early success of the female teams laid waste to such notions as the girls entered into their athletic contests with the same level of intensity, desire, and enthusiasm as the boys.

There have been many “firsts” over the past 50 years as Hotchkiss girls set forth a tradition of excellence. Many of these athletics firsts are celebrated here.

1974-75 FIRSTS

Girls Athletics					
Field Hockey					
Monday	Sept. 30	N.Y.B.H.S.	H		
Tuesday	Oct. 1	Berkshire	A		
Saturday	Oct. 5	Westover	H		
Friday	Oct. 11	Westminster	H		
Saturday	Oct. 12	Ethel Walker's	A		
Tuesday	Oct. 15	Miss Porter's	H		
Friday	Oct. 18	Kent	H		
Friday	Oct. 25	Kent	H		
Tuesday	Oct. 29	Berkshire	H		
Saturday	Nov. 9	Taft	A		
Soccer					
Tuesday	Oct. 1	Berkshire	A		
Saturday	Oct. 5	Westover	H		
Friday	Oct. 11	Westminster	H		
Saturday	Oct. 12	Ethel Walker's	A		
Tuesday	Oct. 15	Miss Porter's	H		
Friday	Oct. 18	Kent	H		
Friday	Oct. 25	Kent	H		
Tuesday	Oct. 29	Berkshire	H		
Friday	Nov. 1	Canterbury	A		
Saturday	Nov. 9	Taft	A		

FIRST ATHLETIC SCHEDULE

In the fall of 1974, girls could only play field hockey or soccer. Each program was able to field a varsity team, and both had a 10-game schedule. Field hockey ended the season at 6-2-2 and soccer at 3-5-2.



FIRST ATHLETIC VICTORY

The first official victory for girls athletics came on September 30th when the varsity field hockey team bested Housatonic Regional Valley High School, 9-0. In that first year, the girls all played on Taylor Fields as the Class of 1949 Fields were being constructed for future play.



Athletes of the Issue: Annie Sonnenblick and Bo Bauer

FIRST ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

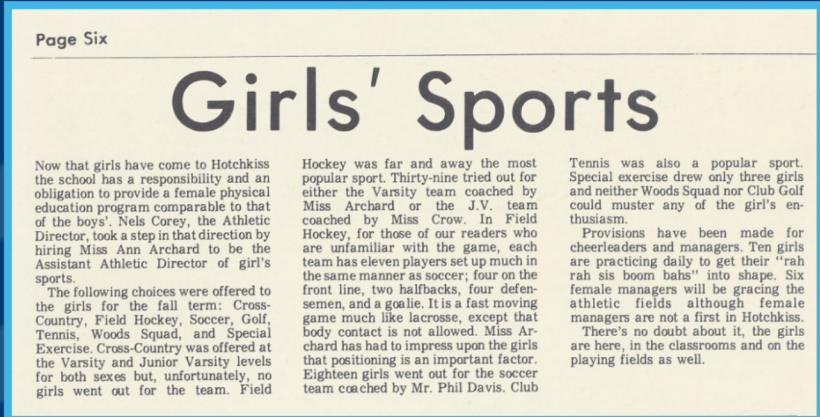
“Annie Sonnenblick '76 is the starting right halfback on the Hotchkiss Field Hockey team. Annie's vibrant spirit and consistently fine and unselfish play has contributed immensely to the team's defense, which has allowed only 4 goals.”
~ *The Record*

FIRST ATHLETIC AWARDS



After the first fall season of interscholastic play in girls athletics, assistant Athletic Director Ann Archard awarded the first varsity letters to Tammy Cudahy '76, Cia Arienti '77, Jennifer Kirk '76, Carole Hawley '75, and Laura Kirk '76.

FIRST RECORD ARTICLE FOR GIRLS ATHLETICS



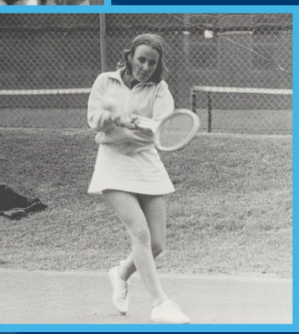
“There's no doubt about it, the girls are here in the classroom and on the playing fields as well.”

THE FIRST UNDEFEATED VARSITY TEAM



FIRST TO WIN AN ATHLETIC AWARD

In the Spring of 1975, Tennis captain, Sarah Thornton '76, became the first female to win an athletic prize when she won the School Tennis Tournament.



FIRST TO EARN A VARSITY LETTER ON A BOYS TEAM



Army and Deerfield, I had to change in the women's restroom since neither had a girls' locker room. The Hotchkiss team was very welcoming and supportive, but I did miss not having other girls with me during the meets.
- Tina Test '76

“My swimming experience at Hotchkiss was certainly unique. My first year I swam on the boys varsity team as the only female swimmer. The other girls swam on the junior varsity team. This meant I traveled with the varsity boys team to every meet, which included going to some schools that were not yet coed. When I swam at

THE FIRST RECIPIENT OF THE GEORGE A. GOSS ATHLETIC AWARD



Hotchkiss athletics through her ability, enthusiasm, and sportsmanship. Tina Test '76 is the first recipient of this award.

This award is named in memory of George A. Goss Jr. '38, who made significant contributions to Hotchkiss athletics. It is awarded to the senior girl who, in the opinion of the Athletic Director and coaches, has contributed the most to

1975 TO PRESENT DAY FIRSTS

FIRST FIELDS DEDICATED TO GIRLS SPORTS, 1975



In October 1975, four new playing fields located northeast of the gym and north of Hoyt Field were dedicated. The Class of '49 Athletic Fields was the gift of a generous donor in the class. The new fields were much-needed and became the home to the field hockey and soccer teams in the fall and girls lacrosse and softball in the springtime.

FIRST TO CAPTAIN A COED TEAM



In the spring of 1978, Sarah Toulmin '78 became the first female to be elected captain of a coed team. “It is with gratitude that I reflect upon my experience as captain of the Hotchkiss sailing team in 1978. During this era at Hotchkiss, the sailing team was coed. Males dominated the skipper position while females were usually crew, and as a female skipper I was an outlier. Thanks to Mr. Neil Scott P'77, '78, '82, and the team as a whole, performance and spirit were valued most of all. While I was surprised when I was elected captain, it reflects the supportive ethos of the sailing team.”
- Sarah Toulmin '78

FIRST ATHLETIC TRIP ABROAD



In March of 1978, 13 members of the Hotchkiss girls' varsity field hockey team, with their English-born coach, Neil Scott, traveled to England during their spring vacation on a two-week tour. They played a series of seven matches against a number of schools in southeast England in addition to visiting some of the lesser-known but beautiful sights in Kent.

FIRST GIRLS ON BOYS TEAMS



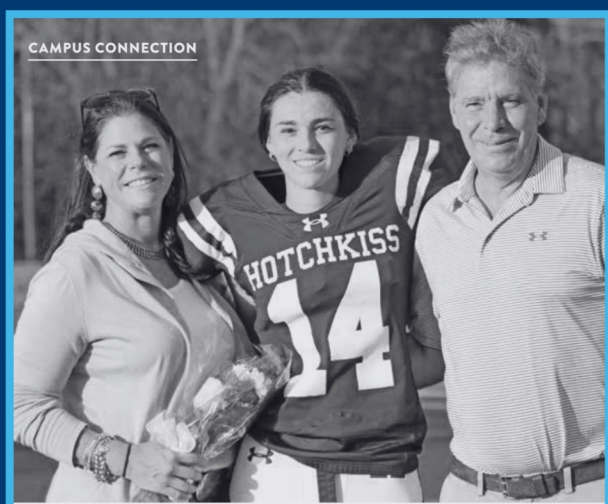
In the winter of 1976, Muffy Arndt '77 and Margie Roraback '79 were the first two girls on the boys varsity ski team. “I don't think I realized that I was one of the first varsity members of the ski team, nor did I realize I was the first female captain the following year. Knowing that now, though, puts a smile on my face. We have a long line of Hotchkiss graduates in our family, and I am certainly proud to be one of them and to have made my own mark on campus.”
- Margie Roraback '79

FIRST MAJOR RECORD HOLDER

At one point, Amanda Carlson '93 held nine out of 12 possible school swimming records. Carlson was also named MVP of the New England Swimming & Diving Championships in both 1991 and 1993.

HOTCHKISS GIRLS RECORDS				NE		NAT'L	
EVENT	SCHOOL	TIME	SWIMMER	NE	NAT'L		
100 FREE	GOSSETT	1:54.06	PAGE	93	1:55.25	1:55.5	1:45.78
200 FREE	CARLSON	3:57.78	CARLSON	HOTCHKISS	93	3:57.78	3:46.33
500 FREE	CARLSON	9:57.05	LINDMAN	CRN	93	9:57.05	9:27.18
1000 FREE	CARLSON	24.43	CARLSON	HOTCHKISS	93	24.90	24.07
1500 FREE	CAMPBELL	22.75	CAMPBELL	HOTCHKISS	93	22.75	22.68
1000 FREE	CARLSON	1:00.47	RYAN	D.A.	91	50.22	50.26
1000 FREE	CARLSON	52.54	CARLSON	HOTCHKISS	91	54.34	52.48
1000 FREE	DAUMANN	51.87	TRIMBLE	CRN	97	51.81	51.82
1000 BACK	CARLSON	58.06	CARLSON	HOTCHKISS	93	1:00.0	57.3
1000 BREAST	MORRISON	1:02.87	SCHWENKER	D.A.	93	1:02.31	1:02.33
200	MORRISON	2:41.03	SPORNELL	CRN	91	2:42.05	2:41.55
400	CARLSON	5:41.00	CARLSON	HOTCHKISS	93	5:41.00	5:41.00
800	CARLSON	11:41.00	CARLSON	HOTCHKISS	93	11:41.00	11:41.00
1600	CARLSON	23:41.00	CARLSON	HOTCHKISS	93	23:41.00	23:41.00
3200	CARLSON	47:41.00	CARLSON	HOTCHKISS	93	47:41.00	47:41.00
6400	CARLSON	95:41.00	CARLSON	HOTCHKISS	93	95:41.00	95:41.00
12800	CARLSON	191:41.00	CARLSON	HOTCHKISS	93	191:41.00	191:41.00

FIRST GIRL TO SCORE A POINT IN A VARSITY FOOTBALL GAME, FALL 2022



THE CROWD GOES WILD
Kendall Giltz '23 Makes Hotchkiss Football History

“I participated in tackling drills and conditioning just like everyone else. The only real difference was that during practices, I would go to the other end of the field to kick field goals and extra points while the team worked on plays.”

“It was definitely intimidating at first, but I also had amazing support from the coaching staff and the entire team which made the transition feel less daunting.”

“When I kicked the extra point against Kent to put us ahead 13-12 (the final score of the game), that's a moment that has stuck with me to this day and I wouldn't trade the entire experience for the world.”
- Kendall Giltz '23

FIRST NEW ENGLAND CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPION



In the fall of 2014, Carlota Corbella Alcantara '15 became the first female runner to win both the Founders League Championship and the New England Class A Championship in cross country. The latter race was held on the Hotchkiss course in front of a large home crowd.

FIRST 3-TIME ALL-AMERICAN



Louisa Essuman '20 came to Hotchkiss from Ghana through the Right to Dream program as one of the inaugural female members. At Hotchkiss, she was a bright light, distinguishing herself as a talented student-athlete. She earned the prestigious Upson Prize for excellence in scholarship, athletics, and citizenship. Louisa was an outstanding soccer player becoming one of only three sophomores in the country to be named to the All-American team in 2017. Louisa went on to win the coveted All-American honors two more times in the fall of 2018 and 2019.



“JV Football was the most fun and amazing athletic team experience in my life to date,” reminisced Elisabeth “Barbs” Bilal '93, who played one season on the Hotchkiss JV football team during her senior year.

MARIA BISSELL HOTCHKISS (1827-1901)



THE FIRST WOMAN OF HOTCHKISS

Maria Hotchkiss was born in 1827 on what is now Fairfield Farm, one of eight children of William Bissell and his wife, Ann Loveland. The Bissells held a place in the top three-percent of wealth in the Town of Salisbury. Their elegant house, built in 1812, now 396 Sharon Road, testifies to the family's affluence.

Maria's childhood came to an abrupt end in 1841, when her mother and her youngest sister died. As a 13-year old girl and one of three sisters, she was undoubtedly burdened with the many domestic tasks involved in running a large house and supervising younger siblings.

Along with her brothers and sisters, Maria attended the Harrison School, one of Salisbury's 13 one-room schools. In Jacksonian America, public education was available to female children, but not guaranteed. Even as late as 1850, when the Department of Education began collecting data, only 53 percent of white girls attended elementary school, making Maria's elementary schooling not only unusual, but also testimony to the value of education for her family.

In 1846, Maria Hotchkiss left home to attend Amenia Seminary, a boarding school in Amenia, NY. Progressive, forward-thinking, and coeducational, Amenia Seminary was founded by the Methodist Church in 1835. By 1840, it had 158 male students and 85 females on a campus that included a large library, an herbarium with 800 specimens, dormitories, a gymnasium, and classrooms. Students studied English, mathematics, science, and philosophy in addition to Greek and Latin, although the curriculum for girls differed from that for boys. For girls, French, drawing, and music took the place of book-keeping, declamation (speech), political economy, and the U.S. Constitution.

After a year at Amenia Seminary, Maria returned home to teach in the same school she attended. Two years later, she met a young entrepreneur, Benjamin Berkeley Hotchkiss, known as "Berk," from Sharon, CT. The two married in May of 1850. It's likely they began married life in Hartford, but in 1852, Maria is listed as a new member of the First Church of Christ Congregational in Sharon, CT. Unfortunately, Maria and Berk's marriage was not terribly successful, and by 1870 the two were living apart. Berk had an enormous munitions plant in Bridgeport, CT, in addition to an office in New York City. He traveled widely, summering in Newport, RI and Saratoga Springs, NY, before eventually settling in Paris with an American woman referred to in the press as "Miss Cunningham."

Berk Hotchkiss returned to the United States in the summer of 1884 to recover from a stroke. When he went back to France, his doctors cautioned him about his health. Six months later he died without altering his will. The fact that he had lived in a state of bigamy as well as having residences in Paris and New York plunged Maria and other Hotchkiss family members into a lengthy trial over his estate. In the end, Maria Harrison Bissell Hotchkiss inherited \$6 million, more than \$160 million today, making her a very wealthy woman.

Maria's life changed dramatically. Her newfound wealth guaranteed her the freedom to live her life independently. During the 1890s, New York City's Plaza Hotel became her permanent residence, although she visited Lakeville often. A few years into her life as a wealthy widow, she made the decision to become a philanthropist. Not surprisingly, her focus was on the towns of Salisbury and Sharon. She offered to pave Salisbury's roads, a suggestion that wasn't received with enthusiasm, and so she underwrote a library for the Town of Sharon.

Her principal interest was education, and she hoped to endow a school to provide an education to Salisbury's sons and daughters. Initially, she spoke with her friend Birdsey Northrop. A native of nearby Kent, CT, and a Yale graduate, Northrop steered her to Yale University Professor Arthur Wheeler, and the rest is history. Maria's idea of a boarding school modeled on Amenia Seminary quickly morphed into an all-boys feeder school for Yale University. She made her first gift of \$200,000 in 1891, followed by an additional contribution for the construction of Bissell Hall.

She put her name on the School's charter and was the only woman to sign it, a moment of historical significance considering the male-dominated nature of the educational system at the time. Yet, despite her crucial role in founding the School, Maria's voice was often ignored in board meetings, a reflection of the gendered limitations she faced throughout her life. Her deep knowledge of how the School's funds were being spent went unacknowledged by those in positions of power, and this neglect was a source of frustration for her in her later years. As she aged, Maria became increasingly withdrawn from the board meetings of The Hotchkiss School, marking a shift in her involvement with the institution she helped found. Nevertheless, she continued to advocate for the School's students, insisting that it maintain scholarships for boys from modest backgrounds and that it hire only the best faculty. She remained deeply invested in the reputation of the School, proud of the legacy she had helped create, even if her contributions were largely overlooked during her lifetime.

Mrs. Hotchkiss, as she was known to the School's early students, died at the Plaza Hotel in New York City in 1901. Her death was marked by an outpouring of respect from the Hotchkiss community. The entire school, in a gesture of reverence for its founder, escorted her coffin from what is now Fairfield Farm to the Hotchkiss cemetery. It was a symbolic acknowledgment of the pivotal role she played in the School's establishment.

Maria Bissell Hotchkiss was not just the benefactor of The Hotchkiss School; she was a visionary, an advocate for local boys, and a woman who fought for the education of others. Through her philanthropy, her insistence on scholarships, and her role as the sole female signatory on the School's charter, Maria helped shape a legacy that continues to benefit students today. Maria's role in the founding of Hotchkiss—and her commitment to educational equality—should not be forgotten. Her story is a reminder that women leave indelible marks on history.

*Excerpted from Maria Hotchkiss: What's Her Story?
by Joan Baldwin P'03,
Curator of Special Collections*

BISSELL HALL

JEAN ROHRBACH OLSEN (1925-2009)



THE FIRST WOMAN OF CO-EDUCATION

While women were few and far between on the Hotchkiss campus before the School became co-educational, one woman in particular played a pivotal role: Jean Olsen. As the wife of Headmaster A. William (Bill) Olsen Jr. '39, Jean fulfilled the role of the headmaster's wife through much of the 1960s, embodying the traditional expectations of that position.

Jean recalled receiving a letter from Alice Van Santvoord, the previous headmaster's wife, outlining the duties she was to perform. "You were the husband's wife. Your personality was subsumed by him. It was his profession, you did the nice things—had the boys in for donuts and coffee, visited them if they were in the infirmary. All the lady bountiful things," she reflected in a 2003 interview with Walter DeMelle P'94.

Despite these traditional responsibilities, Jean's life outside of Hotchkiss was marked by immersion in various pursuits. She worked at a bookstore in Housatonic, CT, volunteered for Planned Parenthood, and served on the Connecticut Child Welfare Association. Later, she would be appointed to the Connecticut Board of Higher Education. "I don't think Hotchkiss had a clue that I was involved, at all. I was supposed to be making cookies and arranging flowers, endlessly arranging flowers," Jean remarked, revealing how limited her role at Hotchkiss often felt.

A graduate of Smith College, Jean was highly educated, well-read, and intellectually curious. While fulfilling her duties as the headmaster's wife, she was also engaged in a variety of roles outside of the School.

In reflecting on the changes that began to unfold in the 1960s, Jean observed, "The revolution started in the latter part of the 1960s. Everybody hated everybody over 30. Nobody smiled. Nobody joked. The faculty was testy. At the same time, I saw a new world opening up. I read everything about the female revolution and was thrilled because I had been unable to do those things. I would have loved to have gone to law school or get an advanced degree, but it had never occurred to me that that was an option open to me."

Jean's growing awareness mirrored larger societal shifts. In 1968, Headmaster Bill Olsen released a special report recognizing that universities and colleges were increasingly going coed, and that the trend would eventually affect prep schools, too. Institutions like Andover, Exeter, St. Paul's, Taft, Kent, and Choate had already made the move to coeducation. In fact, one of the students attending the co-educational Exeter was none other than the Olsens' daughter, Eliza.

In March 1969, Hotchkiss's trustees formed a special committee to study the possibility of coeducation. Their report, delivered in September 1969, concluded that the time was not yet right for Hotchkiss to announce coeducation; however, Jean felt differently. After attending an alumni meeting at an all-male club, she confronted Bill, saying, "We're going to do this. We have to do this."

DeMelle remarked, "She was a woman who changed dramatically over that time—from being a dutiful wife and mother, doing the flowers, planning the parties, to suddenly realizing that there was more to be done. She was very brave. She changed as she saw the world changing. You can't dismiss the fact that she had a daughter—she was looking at the world through her daughter's eyes, at the world in which she was growing up."

Upon Bill's request, Jean went to investigate how other boarding schools were navigating the transition to coeducation. When she returned, she was adamant: "If you're going to go coed, you have to do it coed. There's no second level here. They're not underlings, they're equals. You have to make sure that your facilities are equal, that your programs offer similar opportunities. You just can't treat the girls as second-class citizens, as attractions for the boys."

Bill Olsen respected his wife's insights, and her views began to shape his own. In a 1972 letter to The Hotchkiss Record, he expressed his belief that Hotchkiss should become coeducational as soon as possible, writing, "I have confidence that it will work. It has to."

In December of 1972, the Board of Trustees voted to admit girls to the School. Hotchkiss then began the preparations for coeducation, which included hiring women as faculty and administrators and adjusting the School's infrastructure to accommodate female students.

Dagny St. John, assistant dean of students and another advocate for coeducation, said, "I think if it hadn't been for Jean Olsen, coeducation wouldn't have happened. It was Jean's heart and her inner sense of women being empowered that really made the difference."

DeMelle concluded, "She gave her life to the School in all the ways. From the first day she started pouring tea, she became Hotchkiss."

When Bill Olsen retired in 1981, a group of faculty members and wives, led by Kit Kellogg, Susan DeMelle P'94, and Sam Coughlin P'91,'93, established the Jean R. Olsen Women's Studies Collection endowment at the Ford Library as a specific means to honor Jean. The letter from these women stated:

"Perhaps it is an overstatement to say that without Jean Olsen there would be no women at Hotchkiss. Hotchkiss probably would have gotten around to hiring women faculty without her. It may even have become co-educational. But it would not—could not—have done these things with the same understanding and respect for women as it has with Jean Olsen's help.

Over the years, as teacher of women's literature, Planned Parenthood worker, member of the Connecticut Board of Higher Education, Trinity College student, urger of co-education, voracious reader, and moral questioner, she has taught by her example as well as her words that women should take full partnership with men as the thinkers and doers of this world. She has given Hotchkiss women a place, an identity, and a challenge."

"She has contributed more to Hotchkiss than anybody could know, primarily through her force of personality and her interest in people", Dagny Soderberg St. John

