

## Reunion 1991

- 14 A Mountaintop Experience**  
Blue sky and red ribbons marked the dedication of Lehigh's not-so-new campus. Photography by Bobby Roe
- 18 Welcoming the Past**  
Reunion '91 rekindled spirits and memories. By Paul Wirth, photography by H. Scott Heist.
- 26 The Coed Revolution**  
Lehigh women recall the frustrations and friendships of the early days of coeducation. By Sharon P. Bernstein, '77
- 31 Star Wars**  
Lehigh's admissions office gears up to compete for a shrinking pool of top students. By Robert W. Fisher
- 36 A Life of Brilliant Ironies**  
Book publisher William Turnbull, '49, was arguably the most significant arts figure to graduate from Lehigh. By Leslie H. Whitten, Jr., '50
- 40 Building a New Community**  
IFC President Jeff Goldberg, '92, and student affairs Vice President Marsha Duncan discuss the outlook for the Greek system.
- 45 Lighting Up the Skies**  
From Kim McQuilken to Glenn Kempa, Engineer quarterbacks have gained air superiority. By Marty Horn, '86
- 48 Better Packaging for the Chip**  
Lehigh researchers join forces with industry to make microchips more reliable. By Kurt Pfitzer
- 50 Major Cheli's Life-or-Death Choices**  
Two decisions led Maj. Ralph Cheli, '40, to his death — and the Congressional Medal of Honor. By Rita Plotnicki

Glenn Airgood, '68  
*Executive Editor*

Marvin H. Simmons  
*Director Of Design And Art*

Robert W. Fisher, '79  
*Editor*

Kurt Pfitzer  
*Assistant Editor*

Suzanne Kowitz  
Christopher Roberts  
*Design Support*

Kimberlee S. Calviero  
*Editorial Support*

Donald H. Bott, '54  
*Publishing Director,  
Alumni Association*

*Editorial Board*  
Glenn Airgood, '68  
Michael G. Bolton, '65,  
M.B.A. '67  
Donald H. Bott, '54  
Robert W. Fisher, '79  
Rita T. Malone, M.B.A. '89  
Barbara Robertson  
Newton, '82  
Marvin H. Simmons  
Joseph D. Sterrett, '79,  
M.Ed. '78  
Thomas Stoneback, '72

*Editorial Support*  
Joan M. Andrews  
*Class Communication and In  
Remembrance Coordinator*

*Production Support*  
Suzanne Gaugler  
*Editorial-Advertising Coordi-  
nator*

*Advertising Coordinator*  
David C. Beidleman, '86

YOUR TURN 4 / BULLETIN BOARD 6 / FALL SPORTS 7 /  
LEHIGH HIGHLIGHTS 8 / CORNER NOTES 53 / CLASS COMMUNICA-  
TION 54 / IN REMEMBRANCE 81 / THE LAST WORD 96



# The Coed Revolution — A Natural Evolution

By Sharon P. Bernstein, '77

*In celebration of the 20th anniversary of the arrival of the first female undergraduates, the Bulletin interviewed several women (and men) of the Class of 1975 — as well as some current female students — to find out how the experience for women at Lehigh has changed.*

**T**he evolution of Lehigh's all-male student body to one that is nearly 40 percent female is replete with incidents of acceptance and resentment, satisfaction and frustration, unyielding tradition and inevitable change. The university's decision to prepare both young men and women for adulthood has become the most significant of all the many changes throughout Lehigh's history.

The arrival of the new crop of freshmen in August, 1971 was unprecedented. Among the 1,000 or so incoming freshmen who were to be impressed by the looming church spires amid the treetops that year, 127 of the new arrivals were women. It had been 106 years since Asa Packer founded Lehigh University "for the intellectual and moral improvement of the young men of the region."

## The Move Toward Coeducation

The movement to consider the admission of women to Lehigh began in earnest three years before, on April 19, 1968. That day, in what then-President Deming Lewis called "a disturbing event," a group of several hundred student members of the Committee of Undergraduates for Responsible Education (CURE) demonstrated outside the Alumni Memorial Building during the lunch hour, demanding changes at Lehigh.

Political activism, so apparent for most of the decade at campuses across the nation, came late to Lehigh. The April 1968 issue of the Bulletin described CURE's demon-

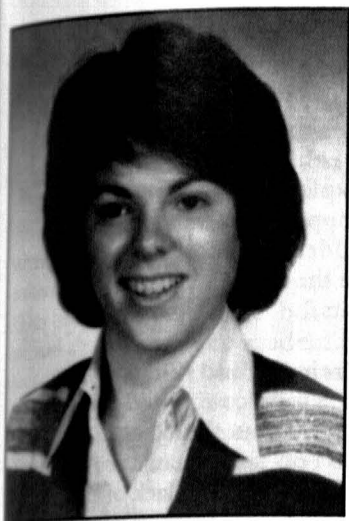
stration as a manifestation of discontent discernible at Lehigh in varying degrees of intensity over the previous few years. Father Francis Sullivan, then Lehigh's Catholic chaplain, observed, "These aren't the Berkeley types—not many longhairs, no mini-skirted girls—and they're laughing. They're not sure what they're protesting, except a general condition."

The late Monroe J. Rathbone, '21, then president of the Board of Trustees, told alumni that he understood the reasons for the students' "uncertain, frustrated feeling" and was supportive of their efforts. CURE's two strongest and most persistent demands were for some part in planning the long-range goals and educational philosophy of the university and for representation on the Board of Trustees.

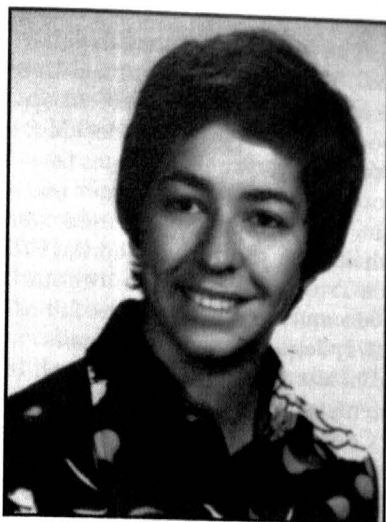
The first demand resulted in the formation of the University Goals Committee, which was composed of undergraduates, members of the administration and a number of recent graduates. This group recommended that the issue of coeducation at Lehigh be addressed by a 13-member subcommittee under the direction of Carey B. Joynt, professor of international relations.

After conducting a "careful and unbiased" study in 1969 of the desirability and feasibility of coeducation that polled students, faculty, alumni, guidance counselors, and students who had been offered admission to Lehigh but elected to

*continued on page 28*



Augusta Betzweiser, '75



Louise Tutelian, '75



Sybil Stershic, '75



Cheryl Sessoms, '75



Karen Stuckey, '75



Velma Conway, '75

**Augusta Betzweiser, '75: 'I just wanted to be a regular student'**

Whether it was resilience or just a need to fit in despite the odds, Augusta "Lynn" Succop Betzwieser, '75, now a full-time mother of four in Hickory, N.C., remembers that "along with the heat and humidity of the first day, expectation and uncertainty hung in the air. There were lots of expectations, but nobody knew what to expect. Everyone—women, faculty, administration, the guys—hoped for different things."

Having grown up with seven brothers, six of whom attended Lehigh, Betzwieser found that when her father suggested she apply, she was not scared about the prospect of

being in a minority.

"Everything changed to accommodate women. There was resentment. Everything was so new. We stuck out like sore thumbs. I just wanted to be a regular student but all four years at Lehigh were never regular."

When asked if she is glad that she chose Lehigh, Betzwieser answered with an emphatic, "Oh, yes!" Citing Lehigh's reputation for opening doors, she felt that it helped her in her previous position as a financial analyst for Pittsburgh Steel.

**Louise Tutelian, '75: 'I felt everyone's eyes on me'**

Another classroom experience stands out in the mind of Louise Tutelian, '75, who with her twin Mary Jean were the first sisters to attend Lehigh. Tutelian, a writer and the former editor of the now-defunct magazine SAVVY, recalled "being in a philosophy class with just one other woman. One day I was extremely unprepared. The professor happened to be one of the members of the faculty that was unhappy about coeducation. He said something like, 'Let's hear the female point of view,' and asked me to share my opinion. I was made to stand and felt everyone's eyes on me. I felt it was really unnecessary."

go elsewhere. Joynt's committee determined that admitting women as undergraduates would accomplish three things: strengthen Lehigh's competitive position in the struggle for quality students and faculty; improve the quality of academic life, particularly in the colleges of business and economics and arts and science; and go a long way toward producing a more normal social atmosphere, which at the time was described as "merely tolerable" or "very dissatisfactory" by 71 percent of undergraduates.

**Sybil Stershic, '75: 'It was like being in a fishbowl'**

"It was like being in a fishbowl," says Sybil Fischman Stershic, '75, who now owns a management consulting firm in Bethlehem. "There was something special about being in a fishbowl...but it was a terrible time, too." Of her decision to attend Lehigh at the forefront of coeducation she said, "My decision was whether I wanted to be in the second class of women at Lafayette or the first class of women at Lehigh."

Recalling how overwhelming the experience was and the early treatment from the men, Stershic described what it was like to walk to Rathbone for dinner her first night on campus. "The guys actually held up cards, with numbers, to rate us as though we were part of an Olympic sporting event," she recalled. "There were other occasions, in the beginning, when men would just start running through the halls shouting, 'Women! Women!'"

The survey found that, in general, 50.6 percent of alumni favored coeducation, with 42.6 percent opposed and 6.8 percent undecided. Predictably, recent graduates favored coeducation by a larger margin, with only pre-1930 alumni overwhelmingly opposed. In April, 1970, the Trustees voted to admit about 100 women to Lehigh in the fall of 1971, despite negative responses from alumni that included comments such as:

- \* Coeducation would encourage promiscuity
- \* Lehigh's unique character and identity would be altered to the commonplace
- \* The resulting male-female ratio would not do enough to resolve the "intolerable" social climate now existing for the men and would also provide a dubious atmosphere for women.

**'Healthy Apprehension'**

With little over a year to prepare for coeducation, university officials had much to do. It was decided that women would be housed in the Centennial II complex and that they would take their meals in the new dining facility, Rathbone Hall. Some of the first women on campus were surprised by the less-is-more approach to preparing for their arrival, citing inadequate preparation of the student body and a lack of available informational material on the subject.

On July 1, 1971, just weeks before the women were to arrive, Lehigh hired Ruth Hurley Vihon as associate dean of students, to assist in the transition.

"I felt I was a woman's advocate. I wanted the women to know that I was available if they had any concerns," Vihon said of her role as both a pioneer and resource, which included interviews with each of the women throughout their first year at Lehigh. Vihon organized a special two-day orientation for the first women in the Class of 1975. The women got an introduction to administrators and each other and the opportunity to pick their roommates.

Although Vihon perceived "a healthy apprehension" on the part of faculty and administration about what services and treatment women

needed and wanted, an overall recalcitrance and ignorance about women made the early years of coeducation difficult. "Women came to Lehigh for a Lehigh education. I think they were exploited. I wish we had had more support that women could have added some intellectual perspective to the school rather than more dollars."

**Prejudice and Pride**

Vihon confronted faculty prejudices about the "weaker sex" ("What do I do if a woman cries in my class?") and the lack of knowledge young men had about women, which led to her teaching a class on sex education. Her most outstanding memory of that first hectic year came during Flagpole Day in the spring when Provost Albert C. Zettlemoyer dedicated the day's events to "the men of Lehigh."

"I wanted to make sure that never happened again," Vihon said, remarking on her later efforts for the establishment of the Mary O'Leary Hurley Award, (given in memory of her mother). The award acknowledges the Lehigh women who do the most for their fellow women on the athletic fields. Vihon also worked for women to be allowed to march in the '97," for women's admittance to the steam room and for an end to nude swims in Jacobs Pool over the lunch hour.

In Vihon's mind, the first women at Lehigh were special, optimistic and liked being the first. "It was so much fun to watch them. Rather than take offense at circumstances, they laughed and coped. They had spunk, wit." Vihon remembers some women attending the freshman rally in coat and tie and organizing Powder Puff football games in response to an overall lack of women's athletic programming as a testament to their resilience.

Although perceptions of the gravity of the situation vary, students, faculty and administrators interviewed recall that the first two years of coeducation at Lehigh were considered an "experiment." Assured that they would graduate from Lehigh no matter what, the women in the Class of '75 and the entire Lehigh community were made aware of the results of a year-long study by the Coeducation Review Committee



during the spring of 1973. The committee unanimously recommended to the Trustees that coeducation be adopted on a permanent basis, citing overwhelming support from faculty, students and administration. According to the committee's findings, the presence of women had not only "a salutary effect on the operating budget but have had the far-reaching academic effect of achieving the parity among the three colleges that has been a stated primary goal of Lehigh's development."

### The View from the 90s

Everyone involved in the change to coeducation knew that time and experience would ease the transition. While 20 years later the climate for women at Lehigh is much healthier, some women still face difficulties in academic and social life.

Denise Gurer, a doctoral candidate in computer science, believes that women in the sciences are still a minority and, as a result, their concerns are often overlooked or minimized by their male counterparts.

"If you are in a hostile environment, how can you be productive? Dealing with negative situations takes energy," Gurer observed, referring to a situation where a woman who shared an office with three men was bothered by posters of women in skimpy bathing suits. After being told she could leave if she did not like the posters, she took her complaint to the department chair, who circulated a memo asking that such posters not be put up. The memo was never enforced. "She was looked at as being overly critical," Gurer concluded.

Gurer believes that a healthier environment can be created for women and other minorities at Lehigh. "I would say that it's not a real friendly climate (for women in the sciences), but I see it improving. I think there needs to be an increased awareness on the part of the faculty that women are different...we have different communication skills. Men are socialized to be more assertive about their ideas and women are not." Gurer thinks these differences should be accepted and put to positive use.

The Hill and the Greek system are still troublesome for many that feel the addition of sororities did not help to lessen the difficulties encountered in managing a healthy social life at Lehigh. Sandee Pyne, '91, refuses to go up on the Hill. "It's too much of a flesh market," she asserted, sharing her concerns about the dangers of date rape and her discomfort in being whistled at while walking from class to class. "I feel like I'm meat hanging on a hook."

Many on campus take exception

to this attitude. Amy C. Llewellyn, '92, president of the Panhellenic Council, believes that it is up to women on campus to "take charge of the social situation." While acknowledging that many women may still feel as though a 4:1 ratio exists, "it's what you make of it. You can get involved and try to change attitudes, or you can change your own. You can dwell on dissatisfactions or go on to the next thing."

Llewellyn, a member of Alpha Chi Omega, believes that the eight sororities provide women with "a

### Karen Stuckey, '75: 'Friendships survived the years'

Karen L. Stuckey, '75, now a partner at Price Waterhouse, also remembers forming closer friendships with women due to the abnormal make-up of the undergraduate population. "We never went anywhere alone, especially not with 32:1 odds up on the Hill. We traveled in packs," she relates. "The friendships have survived over the years," according to Stuckey, the first woman president of the Alumni Association. "If you look at Class of '75 reunions, 50 percent of the people who attend are women."

One of Stuckey's most vivid recollections is of her participation in a project to raise money for the annual heart fund carnival. "They wanted the women to bake cookies. Instead, we went up to the fraternities and stole the composite photos from almost every one of the houses, with assistance, of course, from some of the girls who were dating guys at the different houses. We then ransomed the photos back for \$25 each. Some of the houses voluntarily paid \$100. We ended up raising about \$500, while the entire proceeds from all other activities for the carnival was \$400."

### Cheryl Sessoms, '75: 'It's still a man's world'

In addition to forging unique bonds with each other, many of the first women at Lehigh believe that coeducation in an environment that was mostly male also afforded them the opportunity to experience what it would be like after graduation when they would begin careers in a world dominated by men.

Cheryl A. Sessoms, '75, M.B.A., '77, an estimator for Fluidics in Philadelphia, believes that a woman able to "survive the Lehigh experience" will tackle anything beyond. "It's still a man's world," she observed with a chuckle. A woman of color who came from a mostly white all girls high school, Sessoms was attracted to the challenge of being among the first to participate in coeducation at Lehigh, and felt she knew what to expect. Among her most vivid memories of her first year at Lehigh were the discovery that there were only four "sisters" on campus and the male streakers who thought, by their actions, that they would intimidate the newly arrived women on campus.

really nice feeling of belonging" and the opportunity to develop leadership potential while helping with community service projects like Homeless Awareness Week. (Llewellyn heads Lehigh's Benefit for the Homeless organization.)

Lehigh continues to evolve in response to women's needs and concerns—although some believe the process has been slow. The opening last spring of the Women's Center, the establishment of a formal Women's Studies curriculum, and the services of the year-old Lehigh

University Child Care Center are among the university's latest attempts to improve the environment for women on campus.

### **'We have made great strides'**

Women on campus today are grateful to the first "coeds" at Lehigh who blazed the trail for them. "We have made great strides. A lot of women have taken leadership roles. I'm really proud because we've been doing good things," Pyne said.

After two decades, the majority

of the Lehigh family agrees that the move to coeducation was the most significant—and best—decision ever made at the university. According to Joynt, who takes great pride in the part he played in that decision, "coeducation was the most important change in the history of Lehigh University."

For those who look to the future and still harbor uncertainty and frustration over the state of women at Lehigh, some encouragement might be taken from the words of Rathbone, who wrote the following in response to an alumnus strongly opposed to coeducation:

"...(T)he point is that the world is changing, our country is changing, our young people are changing, and Lehigh is changing. We may not like changes, but the fact is that changes are here. Some of the changes are for better, some for worse. In guiding Lehigh, those of us with the responsibility for decision are trying to adapt to the good changes and avoid or minimize as far as possible the bad ones."

### **Richard, '74 and Velma Conway, '75: 'A kinder, gentler school'**

*Marriage to classmates was an inevitable by-product of coeducation. Betzwieiser and her husband, Thomas, '75, met on campus, as did Stershic and her husband, Michael, '75. Attorney Richard J. Conway, Jr., '74, former vice chairman of the Forum, also met his wife, Velma Gebhard Conway, '75, an occupational therapist turned full-time mother, at Lehigh.*

*"From a personal perspective, coeducation was a wonderful thing that happened to Lehigh," Richard Conway noted. In total, 1,161 Lehigh women have married Lehigh men since coeducation began, according to Barbara Turanchick, '75, associate director of the Alumni Association.*

*As to the acceptance of women by other men on campus and coeducation's effect on the social climate at Lehigh, Richard Conway believes that coeducation made Lehigh "a kinder, gentler school than it was...Lehigh had to grow into women being there. It changed the faculty, the students, the school."*

*Conway believes that the "vast majority of men were excited about the presence of women at Lehigh,*

*although the upperclassmen at that time had more difficulty adjusting."*

*Many women recall that upperclassmen were least supportive of women at Lehigh. While on the Forum, Conway recalled a continuing effort to make coeducation a more positive experience for all undergraduates.*

*"It was a strange time," noted Velma Conway. "I liked the closeness the women formed. We were a tight group." Conway chalks up her decision to be a part of the first class of women to "naivete" but credits the decision to forming lasting bonds with other Lehigh women.*

*"I remember my freshman English class. There were about 16 men and one other woman in the class with me. The two of us always sat right in the front of the class," she recalled. "One day we decided to sit in the back, against the wall. The guys were so distracted. They kept turning around to see what we were doing. It was an interesting switch. Usually we were the ones on display, being watched. Now we were watching them. I even remember writing an essay about the experience."*

*Sharon P. Bernstein, '77, is an Allentown-based freelance writer.*

