

"The College is by no means ready to adopt the coeducation of the sexes, and I trust the members of the legislature can be made to see how disastrous it would be to Delaware College to pass an ill-conceived law forcing upon it the condition of admitting girls into our buildings which are inadequate for the boys now in attendance."

—Then-President George Harter, writing to the secretary-treasurer of the Board of Trustees about his fears of forced co-education without special funding. 1909

Harter, whose only child was a daughter, was not opposed to provisions for the higher education for women and in fact became increasingly friendly to co-education, under proper circumstances.

A fight for the right to study

Emalea Pusey Warner had never gone to college. Daughter of a manufacturer, she was married at 19 to a prominent Wilmington businessman. By the time the agitation for a women's college grew heated, she had long demonstrated a talent for leadership in civic affairs.

When she heard President George Harter's plea to rouse public sentiment, strengthen political will and raise financial support for coeducation, she took the cause to heart. She wrote letters to influential stakeholders and organizations. She drew upon her connections to local women's clubs. She campaigned vigorously. She disseminated a poster addressed "TO THE PEOPLE OF DELAWARE," with an opening line that boldly stated, "DO YOU KNOW that Delaware is the only state without an institution of higher education for women?"

On March 19, 1913, the Delaware General Assembly passed the Women's College bill. If higher education for women in Delaware had a founding mother, it was Emalea Pusey Warner.

The Women's College, 1914-1945

The formal opening of the Women's College took place on October 10, 1914, described by the *Newark Post* as "the greatest day Delaware has ever known."

Winifred Josephine Robinson was the College's first dean. A small-town girl from Michigan who struggled to acquire an education, Robinson would go on to earn her master's and PhD from Columbia University. In February 1914, she abandoned a career in botany and set up temporary residence at the Deer Park Hotel. As dean of the Women's College from 1914-1938, she would go on to shape its every aspect, from its admissions policies and curricula to the selection of its faculty and structure of its residential life.

Located south of what is now Memorial Hall—in the two buildings now named in Warner's and Robinson's honor—the College reflected her vision of what a coordinate college should be. A faculty member in 1935 called it, "a genuine community....Students and faculty saw each other every day: we lived together, worked together, and often played together. I went on picnics with students; I took groups of them to the theatre....And don't imagine that I was unique, or even rare."

The college that Dean Robinson had shaped from its birth matured into a respected institution of high standards and wholesome spirit. Yet, as the founding dean's retirement grew near, the future growth of the Women's College was sacrificed to that of the university as a whole, which sought to unite arts and sciences faculty, eliminate redundancy in teaching and organize education around disciplines rather than gender.

The Women's College closed on July 2, 1945.



Breaking barriers

In September 1951, Kathryn Young Hazeur, EHD51M, and Cora Berry Saunders, EHD51M, became the first African-American women to receive graduate degrees from the University.

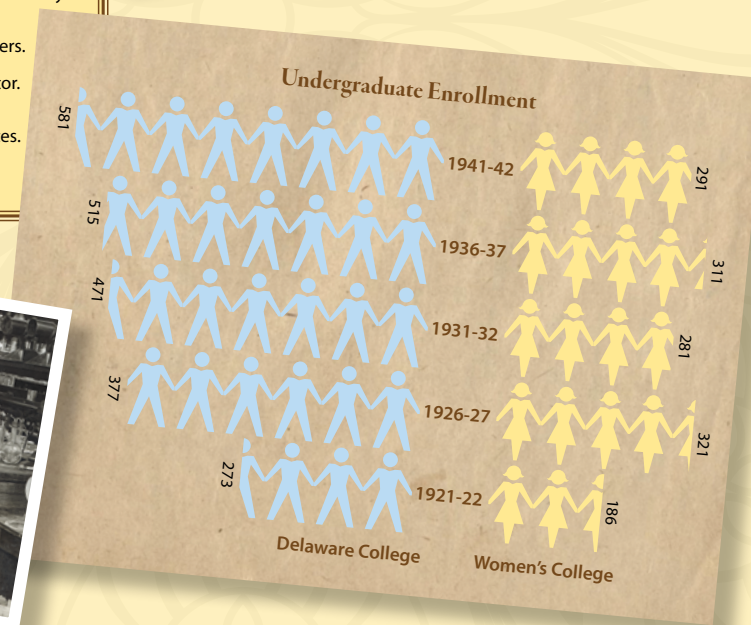
Years earlier, on their first day, the provost addressed all members of the student body. "Your grade will depend not only on academic acumen," he said, "but on how well you get along with other people."

The subtext was clear. There were about 700 white students and 10 African-American.

"That was an awfully tense year," Hazeur remembered in a 2004 interview. "But whenever a professor was around, everyone wanted to get along with me."

She would dedicate her life to education, as the first director of Head Start for Wilmington public schools and as a teacher and principal in elementary schools throughout the state. When Hazeur died in 2011, she was remembered for her humor, smile and gentle way of relating to others.

Like Hazeur, Saunders too was a beloved and well-respected educator. She taught the art of public speaking to her elementary students, many of whom would follow in her footsteps to become UD graduates. Saunders passed away in 1983.



A History of Women at the University of Delaware

"Patience, Clarity and a Fair Amount of Stubbornness"

When Mae Carter began her part-time position in what is now Professional and Continuing Studies, she discovered a new world of frustrated, even timid, women. It was 1966 and some had abandoned their initial education to marry; others stumbled with competing demands of school and motherhood. The most distressing problems came from widows and divorcees, unprepared to support themselves.

"There was so little we could do for them and so much that needed to be done," she said.

And so began Carter's long and fervent career as an advocate for women at UD. She urged leaders to offer services for adult women, and a year later, they did. As chairwoman of the Commission on the Status of Women, she helped establish the Office of Women's Affairs, where she tackled issues like salary equity, child care and sexual harassment. Her proudest accomplishment was to help make Women's Studies an academic department ("It only took, what, 40 years?," she said).

Former President E.A. Trabant said Carter led the way to establishing a more fair and healthy environment for women—and she did it "with patience, clarity and a fair amount of stubbornness."

In 2013, Carter was honored with the Women's Caucus Torch Award for Women's Equity. At the reception in her honor, Margaret Stetz, the Mae and Robert Carter Professor of Women's Studies, commended her steadfast dedication.

"Mae didn't just light the torch," Stetz said. "She stuck it under everyone's behind."



"Co-education did much more than destroy the gender division within the University; it put women into a predominantly male world and emphasized scholarship over teaching and nurturing."

—Carol Hoffecker, *Beneath thy Guiding Hand*



This Way Up

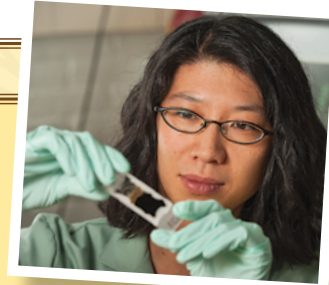
Women are underrepresented among the United States' science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) workforce. So when the National Science Foundation (NSF) began a program in 2001 to help universities increase and advance the representation of women in STEM fields, UD took notice.

Between 2008 and 2013, NSF funded a joint project in the College of Engineering and College of Arts & Sciences to involve administrators and faculty in peer-to-peer workshops about best practices in faculty mentoring and recruitment. The success, outcomes and momentum of this work inspired UD's research team to aim for the most ambitious level of ADVANCE funding. In 2014, the University was one of only four institutions to receive NSF's ADVANCE Institutional Transformation grant to create a clearer path to advancement for women faculty and an improved climate for all faculty.

The grant established UD ADVANCE, a program that will build on recent gains for UD women faculty. (For example, in 2013, the Clare Boothe Luce Program, the leading private funder of women in STEM fields, awarded UD a prestigious Clare Boothe Luce Professorship.)

UD buildings named in honor of women pioneers

- **Warner Hall**, Emalea Pusey Warner, a founder of the Women's College and the first woman member of the Board of Trustees (the building was renamed from Residence Hall in 1940)
- **Robinson Hall**, Winifred Robinson, first dean of the Women's College (the building was renamed from Science Hall in 1940)
- **Cannon Hall**, Annie Jump Cannon, Delaware native and renowned astronomer
- **Drake Hall**, Quaesita Drake, professor of chemistry, 1917-1955
- **Hartshorn Hall**, Beatrice Hartshorn, professor of physical education, 1925-1952 (the building was originally the Women's College Gym)
- **McDowell Hall**, Madeline O. McDowell, first head of the Department of Nursing
- **Smyth Hall**, Alice Smyth, a founding donor to the Women's College
- **Amy E. du Pont Music Building**, named for one of the most generous benefactors to UD. In the 1930s, she paid the salary of a faculty member in the Women's College and in 1939, she established the Unidel Foundation to enhance the University's work. To this day, Unidel remains one of the University's top benefactors.
- **Rextrew House**, Amy Rextrew, chair of the Department of Home Economics in the Women's College from 1927 onward and dean of women from 1948-1952



1872 1875 1876 1885 1914 1919 1921 1928 1935 1945 1950 1957 1960 1965 1966 1967 1971 1972 1974 1975 1976 1978 1987 1993 2002 2006 2010 2011 2014 2015

Six women attend lectures with male students at Delaware College.

Three of the six women graduate.

Nine female students form the Pestalozzi Literary Society, the first female student group.

Coeducation abolished, with women no longer admitted to Delaware College.

Delaware College opens the Women's College with 48 freshmen.

Marian Cruger Coffin appointed University landscape architect; she unites the two separate campuses (Delaware College and Women's College) into one cohesive design. Landscaping was a challenge since the linear mall design of each college was out of alignment with the other.

Fun Fact
Coffin planted magnolias, honey locusts and many "feminine" trees on the Women's Campus and stately American elms on the men's side.

The Women's College of Delaware and Delaware College join to form the University of Delaware, with each college retaining its autonomy.

Emalea Pusey Warner becomes first woman to join the University's Board of Trustees.

DuPont executive H. Fletcher Brown makes substantial bricks-and-mortar gift to establish a state-of-the-art building for chemistry. Two years later, he builds an identical structure for humanities. Brown's gift promoted academic scholarship in various disciplines for students of both sexes and played a pivotal role in the dissolution of same-sex education.

Women's College closes, and men and women once again attend classes together.

University ends racial segregation. Of the first 10 African-American students to enroll, three are women.

Fun Fact
In the 1950s, UD women were expected to keep their rooms and closets clean at all times. Failure to do so may be "sufficient cause for requesting you to give up your room."
From UD Handbook for Women 1957-58

First woman elected president of Student Government Association.

President John Perkins appoints an Advisory Committee on the Education of Women.

Hilda Davis joins English Department as UD's first African-American woman faculty member.

Educational Services for Women in the Extension Division (now Professional and Continuing Studies) provide academic counseling and non-credit courses for women returning to school.

The Association of Women Students publishes "Your Co-Ed Campus" reminding women students of rules and regulations that apply to them.

A Winter Session student project finds that "until the University makes an effort to increase the numbers of the women on the faculty, the percentage of women students will continue to decline."

First Women's Studies course is team-taught by 19 people. Ninety-five students enroll.

Commission on the Status of Women created by President E. A. Trabant.

The Women's Studies Interdisciplinary Program formalized.

University develops policy and procedure for handling suspected rape cases on campus.

"[By the mid-1970s] A new paradigm emphasizing equality of opportunity in every realm of University life had replaced the old paradigm that had isolated women into a limited, protected world of their own."

—Carol Hoffecker, *Beneath thy Guiding Hand*

E.A. Trabant Award for Women's Equity established in honor of President Trabant.

Women's Studies major established.

Mae and Robert Carter endow a tenured professorship in Women's Studies.

Minor in "Sexualities and Gender Studies" created.

Women's Studies achieves departmental status; Department receives grant to start new undergraduate concentration in "Domestic Violence Prevention and Services."

Women's Caucus created; replaces the Commission on the Status of Women.

UD receives the National Science Foundation's prestigious \$3.3 million ADVANCE grant to diversify and strengthen the academic workforce.

UD Faculty Senate forms Commission on Sexual Harassment and Assault.

Fun Fact
In 1975, the total number of women undergraduates surpassed the number of men. Today, women comprise 57.5 percent of the student body.

"How void of interest will be college life without the fair maidens to give it charms. How dull the classroom without female faces to lend it grace and beauty... [The] female smile more than balanced the professor's frown, and we will bid a sorrowful farewell to you, O fair Co-Education."

—Delaware College Review, June 1886

