

CELEBRATING WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP



President Joan R. Leitzel came to the university in 1996, the second woman to lead this institution. She is a Professor of Mathematics, having taught mathematics in other institutions, before coming an administrator. She knows well the dilemmas of parenting and career and being in a scientific field, where only a few women were present.

New Hampshire's only state university has changed dramatically since its origin in the late 1800s. In 2000, 61 percent of the students, one-third of the faculty, and a growing number of senior administrators — including the president — are women. The emergence of women leaders is occurring at many other colleges: women with the required skills, experience and education are competing more aggressively with men for the best-paying, highest-ranking positions in academe.

These women have taken many different paths to power. President Leitzel and Marilyn Hoskin, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, began their academic careers as assistant professors, attained tenure, and went on to become a department chair before joining the administration. The tenure process poses distinct difficulties for women faculty, who typically bear the greatest responsibility for children. Some universities, including UNH, allow some interruptions of the tenure cycle to accommodate the needs of families.

Both President Leitzel and Dean Hoskin believe the presence of women in leadership positions offers the University greater diversity and affirms individual women's highest aspirations. "It's tremendously important to women to have a sense that there are no barriers in the way of them achieving their goals. If they saw that there were no women in Thompson Hall, they might assume this is a not a place where women can advance, and they'd go somewhere else," says Dean Hoskin.



Claudia J. Morner came here in 1995 as Professor and University Librarian. She oversaw the expansion, moving and construction of the new Dimond Library.



Marilyn Hoskin is dean of Liberal Arts and professor of political science. She came in 1995, overseeing the largest college at the University.



Donna Simpson, Whittemore School of Business and Economics, is chair of the Professional and Technical Staff Council (PAT Council) for the year 2000. This organization represents the concerns of salaried non-academic staff.



Katherine Jaus from Telecommunications is chair of the Operating Staff Council for the year 2000. This organization represents the interests of hourly wage non-academic staff at the University.

Vice President of Student Affairs Leila Moore and Vice President of Finance and Administration Candace Corvey previously served in a variety of positions and academic areas, building the wide-ranging skills required for their present positions. Vice President Moore says the challenging issues she faces in Student Affairs, such as substance abuse and sexism, force her to draw on all she has learned to create new, more effective approaches. Yet she believes she has to work harder than her male colleagues to establish her credibility when she enters traditionally male territories such as finance and budgeting.

As the first woman to head the Department of Finance and Administration, Vice President Corvey's competitive edge is her strong educational background and experience in business and human resources. Her greatest asset, she believes, is that she's a generalist who moves easily between qualitative and quantitative modes of thinking. "Once you establish yourself and your reputation, the stereotypes fall away," she explains.

Despite progress for women, inequities still exist. Women staff hold the majority of low-paying jobs on campus, including more than 90 percent of secretarial and clerical positions. Women make up only 31 percent of the faculty.

The successes of today's women leaders are built on the struggles of the many women pioneers who preceded them in the last "century of progress." The University of New Hampshire's women graduates, current students, and those who will follow in their footsteps carry their legacy into the next century. Their successes represent the evolution of a more equitable, diverse university community, as well as a sense of the promise and potential of women in the world at large in the new millennium.



Rochelle Lieber came to UNH in 1981 and is currently professor of English and chair of the department.



Peggy A. Vagts, a flutist, came to the university in 1978 and teaches in the music department. She is Professor of Music and currently chair of the department.



Jane Stapleton served as the coordinator of the Sexual Harassment and Rape Prevention Program (SHARPP) from 1990 to 1995, teaches Women's Studies courses, and is coordinator for the President's Commission on the Status of Women and the recently created President's Commission on the Status of People of Color.



Karol La Croix graduated from UNH in 1967 and following her doctoral studies returned to this institution in 1972, holding several administrative posts. She is now the dean of the University of New Hampshire at Manchester and Professor of Medical Laboratory Science.

UNH Full-Time Faculty Counts by Year and Gender

