



WILLIAM & SARAH LAWRENCE SOCIETY

Legacy News

The William & Sarah Lawrence Society recognizes the many alumnae/i and friends who have informed the College that they have included Sarah Lawrence in their estate planning. It is named for William Van Duzer Lawrence and his wife, Sarah Bates Lawrence, in whose memory he created the College.

A Couple's Shared Commitment: From Required Reading to Voluntary Giving



JoAnn (CCE '77) and Ted Robinson with President Karen Lawrence.

JoAnn Robinson (CCE '77) was in her 30s, living in Manhattan and working as an x-ray technician, when she went back to school in 1972. "I looked at Columbia and Hunter," she says in a recent conversation. "But when I went for an interview at Sarah

Lawrence, I thought, 'This is the place for me. This is where I want to be.'" Today, JoAnn and her husband Ted reflect on how that first impression led to an exceptional educational experience for them both and to an enduring relationship with the College. The relationship will be a permanent one because the couple has made Sarah Lawrence a major beneficiary of their estate.

Ted had already earned his undergraduate and medical degrees from Columbia University and was a practicing physician when JoAnn started at Sarah Lawrence. But as she immersed herself in her studies, he joined her in much of the reading. "Ted got a lot out of my courses," JoAnn said, remembering that both of them especially enjoyed the syllabus for William Park's class in 18th-century British literature. "I ended up reading everything James Boswell and Samuel Johnson wrote," Ted said. After JoAnn graduated, the Robinsons took

advantage of courses offered to alumni. They regularly enjoyed social and cultural events on campus, and became loyal supporters of the Fund for Sarah Lawrence.

Throughout the couple's successful professional lives, the College remained a central focus. They are now retired—JoAnn from a career in real estate and Ted from his post as Professor of Clinical Radiology and Director of Radiology at the Allen Hospital of Columbia Presbyterian Hospital (now Columbia University Medical Center). Over the years, the Robinsons' many interests have brought them in close contact with a number of leading educational and charitable institutions. But when they drew up their wills, they knew without question that it was Sarah Lawrence they wanted to support.

The basis of that decision, besides their admiration for the College and their respect for College President Karen Lawrence, was their awareness of its historically small endowment. The couple's intended bequest will enhance the College's unrestricted endowment and will make much more of a difference to Sarah Lawrence than it would to a richer beneficiary. The Robinsons' willingness to write a letter of intent spelling out their wishes is one more indication of their generosity to Sarah Lawrence, and because they qualify in terms of age, it means that their intended bequest can be "counted" as a gift for the Campaign for Sarah Lawrence. Furthermore, Ted says, "Karen Lawrence's leadership means decisions about the use of the funds are very clear. We are happy to honor Karen with that responsibility."

A Poetic Gift



Mimi and Miles Coon, MFA '02.

“Many people retire and find themselves at sea because our identities are tied to our careers,” says Miles Coon, MFA '02.

Coon retired when he sold his successful manufacturing

and distribution business in 1994, but the years since have been rich with creativity and personal expression. “Poetry and Sarah Lawrence helped me find meaning divorced from the work of earning a living,” Coon says. He warmly recalls the fulfillment he found in his 60s as a member of the MFA program’s diverse student population, adding, “The College has an important place in my heart, and I’m very grateful.”

To express his gratitude, Coon has named Sarah Lawrence as a direct beneficiary of his IRA, a step that required a simple update to his IRA beneficiary form. When the assets of his estate are distributed, a significant portion of his retirement savings will be directed tax-free to the college’s Thomas Lux Scholarship Fund. Many benefactors are choosing this tax-free way to name Sarah Lawrence in their estates because retirement-plan assets left to heirs, such as family members or even their own estate, could be subject to both income and estate taxes. This generous gesture qualifies Coon for The William & Sarah Lawrence Society, in recognition of his generous future gift.

The Thomas Lux Scholarship benefits graduate students of poetry who plan to teach in the field. It is named for the award-winning poet who enjoyed a long, distinguished tenure as director of Sarah Lawrence’s Master of Fine Arts program, a Guggenheim Fellow and a recipient of multiple grants from the National Endowment for the Arts. Lux mentored many who went on to illustrious careers of their own, and when he stepped down as director in 2002, a group of alumni, students, and faculty endowed the scholarship in his name. Coon played a major part in organizing that group 10 years ago, and says he will always credit Lux for being an outstanding thesis adviser and the teacher who advised him to apply to the College.

When the two poets first met, Coon was attending workshops around the country. A graduate of the University of Virginia and Harvard Law School, he hadn’t thought of pursuing an advanced degree in his new vocation. But he was drawn to the College’s program after Lux described all it had to offer. “One thing that attracted me was that they treat every student like he or she is the only student,” Coon says. “I was very impressed with the tutorial aspect of the program.”

Today Coon is a widely published poet and the director of the popular Palm Beach Poetry Festival, which he founded with his wife Mimi in 2004. The guest of honor at the 2013 festival will be Billy Collins, known to many as the past Poet Laureate of the United States, and known to Miles Coon as the great teacher in his very first workshop at Sarah Lawrence.

WELCOME NEW WSLs MEMBERS

The William & Sarah Lawrence Society honors the many alumnae/i and friends of the College who have made the decision to support it by including Sarah Lawrence in their estate planning. Members have the enduring gratitude of the Sarah Lawrence community for their commitment to the College’s future.

Marian Chatfield-Taylor '66
Samantha Fenrow '93 and Nathan Adams '91

Merrel Marlin '56
Sima Rae Osdoby '66 and Arthur Katz

CONTACT US!

SARAH • LAWRENCE • COLLEGE

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Major Gifts and Gift Planning
(914) 395-2526
giftplanning@sarahlawrence.edu

Sarah Lawrence is already in my estate plan. List me as a member of the William & Sarah Lawrence Society.

Contact me about:

- SLC charitable gift annuities
- Including SLC in my will

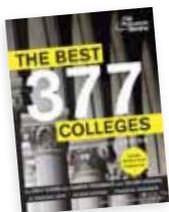
NAME	DEGREE	CLASS YEAR	
E-MAIL ADDRESS			
STREET	CITY	STATE	ZIP
DAY PHONE	EVENING	CELL	

Please cut out and return.

The Princeton Review Reports

Sarah Lawrence College is Tops for Faculty

SARAH • LAWRENCE • COLLEGE



#1

**FACULTY
IN THE
COUNTRY**

Sarah Lawrence College
"Professors Get High Marks"
—The Princeton Review

A survey of students at top colleges confirmed what we've always known.

SLC FACULTY ARE THE BEST OF THE BEST.

According to the Princeton Review's *Best 377 Colleges: 2013 Edition*, the best professors are at Sarah Lawrence College. Ranked #1 for "Professors Get High Marks," Sarah Lawrence also scored in the top 20 of several categories, including "Best Classroom Experience," "Best College Theatre," and "Class Discussions Encouraged."

"Of course, we ourselves have always known we have the best faculty and best teaching in the country, but it is a welcome event to have this college guide make it public," said President Karen Lawrence in a message to the College community.

Salomé Chamber Orchestra Concert is a Happy Celebration of All Things Sarah Lawrence

The capacity audience was enthusiastic and the orchestra responded in kind. The College was proud to honor Professor Emerita Marianne W. Lester that day, who in turn honored the College with warm and generous comments about her experience in the Sarah Lawrence community. Thank you to Mary Lynn Marx Bianco '61 and The Moca Foundation for sponsoring the orchestra's appearance on campus.

A Photographer's Lifelong Focus and Educational Legacy



Mary Morris Lawrence '36

Mary Morris Lawrence, a pioneering photojournalist, always treasured her college experience. Mary attended SLC when it was a brand new progressive junior college for women. Morris stayed at SLC for 3 years, receiving her diploma after the second year, 1934.

Sarah Lawrence was “where I formed all my rebellious ideas,” said this grateful alumna, who became the first female photographer at the Associated Press.

Founded only five years before she arrived on campus, Sarah Lawrence was where she also gained early experience in journalism, as the student newspaper's first “City Editor.” The AP hired Lawrence as a general assignment photographer not long after she finished Sarah Lawrence, and as she was making history there, she remained active with her alma mater, serving on the editorial board of the alumnae magazine.

When she died in 2009, after a long and highly accomplished life, Lawrence left the College a trust of almost \$2 million. She made the gift unrestricted, allowing Sarah Lawrence to allocate the funds to the areas of greatest need. And by informing the College of her planned bequest many years before, she had enabled its leaders to honor her generosity during her lifetime and thank her personally.

Lawrence's undergraduate studies included classes with Helen Merrell Lynd, who wrote major books on economic class and social conformity in America. Avoiding conformity throughout her career, Lawrence stood out not only as a woman in an overwhelmingly male profession, but as an artistic innovator.

“I developed a style quite different from regular news photography,” she once wrote about her pursuit of a “candid or documentary look.” Lawrence achieved this look by using small cameras when other photojournalists were still carrying large, heavy equipment. She also avoided the traditional use of flashes, which she criticized for “glaring into people's startled faces.” And she developed the technique of telling a story in a series of pictures rather than just one, to show not only what had happened, but why and what it meant.

Lawrence followed her success at AP with an appointment as the first photographer at PM, an unconventional paper with no advertising. She worked for PM in New York and California for many years, taking only six weeks off when she and her first husband, the photographer Ralph Steiner, became parents. Lawrence's West Coast work included iconic black-and-white portraits of movie stars like Humphrey Bogart and Marilyn Monroe, and during World War II, when most male reporters were

“SLC turned me into a question-asker and independent thinker”

working overseas, she began to write stories as well as shoot them. In England during the 1960s, while her second husband, Harold Lawrence, managed the London Symphony Orchestra, she documented the lives and work of leading musicians and composers.

From 1978 on, the couple lived in Oakland, California, where she became active in antipoverty efforts and the fight for women's rights. In 2001, Lawrence included these reflections in a submission to Class Notes: “I came to Sarah Lawrence, at 18, from a narrow-minded, straight-laced, socially correct boarding school. SLC turned me into a question-asker and independent thinker. My life now is still bolstered by what happened to me in college.”

Honoring a Cherished Professor with a Named Scholarship



Dorothy Millner CCE '67,
MA '69

Dorothy Millner CCE '67, MA '69 enrolled at the Center for Continuing Education when the concept of adult education was in its infancy. Her first course was Romantic Poetry, taught by Robert Wagner.

Dorothy became a recognized poet herself

while earning two degrees from the College and a PhD from the City University of New York. With her impressive education, she was able to embark on two successive careers, the first as a professor of writing and literature at Pace University, the second as a management analyst at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) in Washington, DC. Afterward she would recall the words of the director who hired her at the FDIC: "Anybody who has done as much analysis of literature as you have will bring a fresh approach to this position."

To an alumni questionnaire asking "Does life begin after 40?" Dorothy responded, "For me it certainly did."

In her later years, Dorothy called Sarah Lawrence "the best thing that ever happened to me." She

expressed her gratitude to her alma mater in a powerful way when she named the College as the residuary beneficiary of her estate.

A prolific poet until the end of her life, Dorothy died in December 2011 at the age of 93. As she directed, her gift is being used to establish a scholarship fund named for William Park, her most cherished teacher and mentor.

Dorothy acknowledged that before she came to Sarah Lawrence, her general love of literature had been without direction. At the College, she said, her affinity "received the kind of attention which gave it shape and form." She credited faculty members like Park and Wagner for encouraging her to pursue her passionate interest in literature. And she credited another Sarah Lawrence professor, Bert James Loewenberg, for opening her mind "to a different way of thinking historically," adding that when she became a teacher herself, Loewenberg's lessons were "an ever present value woven into the living texture of my classes."

Dorothy informed the College of her planned bequest years ago. That substantial notice allowed the Sarah Lawrence community to express its deep appreciation for her generosity and to assure Dorothy that her wishes would be fulfilled.

Reunion 2013

Undergraduate alumnae/i in classes ending in 3 and 8:

Your Sarah Lawrence Reunion year is coming up **June 6-9, 2013!**

Estate Planning Seminar: Blanche Lark Christerson '77, Managing Director, Deutsche Bank Private Wealth Management, will conduct a wealth and estate planning seminar special for Sarah Lawrence alumni on Saturday morning, June 8. We hope to see you there!

Please check the Sarah Lawrence Alumni Community website, www.slc.edu/reunion, for up-to-date information, or contact us at reunion@sarahlawrence.edu or (914) 395-2531 for more information.



Great News!

The IRA Charitable Rollover is back.

The rules are fully retroactive to Jan. 1, 2012 and run through Dec. 31, 2013.

As always, there are special situations so please consult your own tax advisor.

More details in our next issue.



Making a Gift of Stock to Sarah Lawrence?

Thank you! Please be sure to advise us to expect the stock (the donor's name, the name of the stock, number of shares, fund to credit) so we can get you a prompt acknowledgment for tax purposes. Contact Rosemarie Gherardi (phone: (914) 395-2327; fax: (914) 395-2665; e-mail rgherardi@sarahlawrence.edu) for proper attention.

Otherwise, Sarah Lawrence will be unable to credit your gift properly.

Payment Rate Single Income Beneficiary Effective January 1, 2012 (subject to change)	
Age	Rate
60	4.4%
65	4.7%
70	5.1%
75	5.8%
80	6.8%
85	7.8%
90+	9.0%

What Would a Sarah Lawrence Gift Annuity Do for You?

A Sarah Lawrence Charitable Gift Annuity pays one or two income beneficiaries a set payment rate for life. Current gift annuity payment rates are attractive, and payments are taxed advantageously. It is a gift that will earn a charitable income tax deduction based on the value of the gift and the stream of payments. And the balance in the gift annuity after the demise of the last income beneficiary will help Sarah Lawrence maintain its standard of education for future generations. Gift annuity availability may vary by state. Please call us to learn how a Sarah Lawrence Charitable Gift Annuity would work for you.