



LIVING THE LEGACY

THE UNB ASSOCIATED ALUMNAE, 1980 – 2010



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By
Susan Montague

*Dedicated to the founding members of the Associated Alumnae
whose legacy has inspired our purpose and strengthened our commitment to the women of
UNB: Edith Hazen Allen, Margaret Belyea, Verna Brown, Miriam Cadwallador, Mrs. H.G.
Chestnut, Edith A.R. Davis, Barbara K. Dobson, Emma Estabrooks, Frances Fish, Louise
Kinghorn, Mrs. H.F. McLeod, Amy L. Sharp, Ethel M. Smith, Frances Steeves, Ellen M.
Stopford, Olive Stothart, Annie L. Taylor, Sadie Thompson, and Annie I. Tibbits.*

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It was an honour to be engaged by the Associated Alumnae on the occasion of its centenary to update the organization's history, so ably begun in 1982 by Linda Squiers Hansen.

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The history of the Association's century of service to UNB gives yet another insight into the proud heritage of Canada's oldest English-language university.

PREFACE

In the 30 or so years following the Alumnae Association's triumphal acquisition of the Maggie Jean Chestnut House on Charlotte Street, UNB's first residence for women students, life at the University continued quietly. A core of dedicated Association members conducted modest fund raisers; maintained a watching brief on conditions at Maggie Jean, which was deeded to the University in 1952; and provided as much support and encouragement to female students as the small group could muster.

But society was preparing a challenging destiny for the organization. The addition of a Physical Education program (1957), the School of Nursing (1958-59) and the Faculty of Education (1973) attracted many more women students to these female-friendly disciplines. This feminine enrolment growth was further advanced by the building of Lady Dunn Hall (1961) and Tibbits Hall (1970), which gave women on-campus accommodations for the first time. The leading edge of the Baby Boomers started to arrive in the early 1960s, when large numbers of young women were urged to participate in post-secondary education. This was compounded by the opening of the Saint John campus in 1964, which offered unprecedented accessibility to students (of both genders) from that community.

More women were welcomed into the University's administration. Edith McLeod (BA '20, LLD '66), who served as Registrar from 1945 to 1968, was joined in 1951 by Florence Snodgrass (BA '24), who was appointed Chair of the Department of Psychology and Education (succeeding Louise Thompson [BA '37], UNB's first female faculty member). Katherine MacLaggan became Director of the School of Nursing in 1958, and Gertrude Gunn (BA '55, MA '56) became Head Librarian in 1959. In 1963, Rebecca Watson (BA '41, LLD '86), who oversaw the campus branch, became the first female bank manager ever appointed by the Bank of Montreal.

Women in New Brunswick could not help but be aware of the

Women's Liberation Movement, which began in the United States with Betty Friedan's 1963 book *The Feminine Mystique* and the report of John F. Kennedy's Presidential Committee on the Status of Women, chaired by Eleanor Roosevelt. This "second-wave feminism" (the first being the fight for suffrage, in which Canada preceded the United States) lasted into the 1990s and successfully addressed a wide range of issues: de facto inequalities, official legal inequalities, sexuality, family, the workplace, and reproductive rights. In 1967 the Canadian government established the Royal Commission on the Status of Women to examine the situation in this country, and in its 1970 report the commission made 167 recommendations for greater equality of women.

The spirit of the times eventually permeated academia. In 1975, the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada held a conference in Ottawa on the status of women in Canadian universities. President John Anderson (DSc '01) invited Gertrude Gunn, Nursing professor Irene Leckie, Sociology professor Barbara Pepperdene (BA '59), and Geology professor Sharon Bachinski to attend on behalf of UNB. Their recommendations prompted Dr. Anderson to establish a Task Force on the Status of Women at UNB in early 1976. It included representatives of nine faculties, Human Resources, Public Relations, the libraries, technology and support staff, and students. Its comprehensive report, based on numerous public and private consultations, including two meetings with the Associated Alumnae, was released in June 1979. It contained 93 recommendations to improve the lives of women students, staff and faculty in Fredericton and Saint John.

By 1980, the scene was set and the times were ripe for the Associated Alumnae to embark on a renewed course of activity and influence.

CHAPTER 1: COMING INTO ITS OWN

Raising the Profile

As Mardi Cockburn (BA '52) assumed the presidency of the Associated Alumnae in the spring of 1980, one of the biggest challenges facing the organization was lack of visibility and, consequently, lack of recognition. What's more, the Maggie Jean Chestnut House, the most tangible symbol of the Association's achievements, was under threat of closure, and possibly even sale, because of fire code violations. This prospect was deeply troubling to the organization that had worked so hard to establish UNB's first women's residence.

Mrs. Cockburn, who lived in St. Stephen, had a long and distinguished record as a volunteer who could get things done, and she set about to raise the profile of the organization. A new University president, James Downey (LLD '91), had been selected and there was reason to hope the Association could gain in stature. The semi-annual meeting that October was held in St. Stephen and Dr. Downey spoke positively about the contributions the group had made to UNB. Two weeks later, at his installation, he said, "I know...that we have here at UNB the people, the talent and the spirit to keep faith with those whose vision and courage built and sustained this institution, and to serve our students, our province, and our country as well and as wisely as they served theirs."

In addition, for the first time in the history of UNB, a woman was serving as president of the Associated Alumni. Becky Watson, already a trailblazer in her professional life, began a one-year term in 1981 at the head of the 118-year-old body of which every UNB graduate was considered a member.



The Associated Alumnae executive, 1980: (Left to right) Isabel Coburn, Nancy Kilburn, Margaret Lambert, Mardi Cockburn, Althea Macaulay, and Mary Pritchard Charters.

Buoyed by the possibilities for renewal, Mrs. Cockburn arranged to have a letter given to each incoming female student and another to each graduating alumna, welcoming them to the Association. “The Alumnae continues to fight for the educational and financial interests of women on our two campuses,” she wrote to the graduates. “We provide a common ground for UNB’s female graduates across the country with local societies in all the major cities.

“Please lend your support to the Alumnae—you will be helping all your sister graduates in the years to come,” she concluded.

In anticipation of the Province’s bicentenary in 1984 and the University’s in 1985, the Alumnae decided to publish a history of the Association, which was then celebrating its 70th anniversary. Alumna Linda Squiers Hansen (BA ’76) was hired to research and write the history in October 1980.

Aware of the workload carried by a small number of Alumnae volunteers, Mrs. Cockburn pressed Art Doyle (BBA ’62), Director of Alumni Affairs, on the matter of support from his office. He wrote to her confirming it was the “policy to provide the same services to the Alumnae Association as are provided to the Alumni Association” and enumerated that these included printing and mailing announcements, secretarial services, the preparation of minutes, expenses of the annual fund raising campaign, telephone costs and miscellaneous things such as stationery.

Meanwhile, Margaret Lambert (BA ’37), Mrs. Cockburn’s immediate predecessor, was leading a Save the Maggie Jean Chestnut Committee, which included Mary Ellen Tait (BA ’64, BEd ’69), Lesley Fleming (PhD ’78), Muriel Farris Baird (BA ’27, BEd ’69) and Mardi Cockburn as members. At the annual general meeting in May 1981, Mrs. Lambert, Mrs. Tait, the don of Maggie Jean Chestnut Moira McLaughlin, and Isabel Coburn (BA ’53, BEd ’60) presented a resolution: “Whereas the Maggie Jean Residence has a long standing tradition at the University—historically, academically, culturally, socially; Whereas the Maggie Jean Chestnut residence represents an alternative life style for the residents that is an important part of the university and an environment closest to the home: Be it resolved: that the Alumnae Residence Committee be instructed to urge the president of the University to preserve the Maggie Jean Chestnut House as a university residence.”

The committee continued to lobby the president and others. By September it was reported that another off-campus residence,

Murray House, had been sold and that the proceeds would be used to upgrade the Maggie Jean Chestnut and retain it as a residence. Mrs. Lambert wrote to Dr. Downey: "Again let us say to you that we are pleased the Maggie Jean Chestnut Residence is to continue as an important element in the residence system, and that it has been modified to meet the requirements of the Fire Prevention Office." Not content, however, to let matters rest there, the letter went on to presume "on the generosity of the University in these difficult times" by requesting that an additional \$20,000 to \$25,000 of the proceeds from Murray House be used to refurbish Maggie Jean.

In 1982 the Association commissioned a short video from UNB's Audio-Visual Services, which, according to public relations committee chair Lesley Fleming, was "suitable either for public television or for internal university use and will explain the presence and purpose of the U.N.B. Alumnae. Mardi Cockburn and I have spent some time with Mr. [Bob] Miller outlining our ideas, and he has done the filming for the project already. When the film is completed, it can be shown at registration or at functions where alumnae and female students meet."

The actual video production, "We Are the Alumnae," has been lost, but a copy of the script shows that the film briefly traced the history of the organization and outlined its major projects: the acquisition of the Maggie Jean Chestnut Residence, the donations to library resources in the women's residences, the provision of scholarships and bursaries, participation on the Board of Governors, and receptions for graduating students and scholarship recipients. "The Associated Alumnae is in existence to serve you during your time at UNB. We are also a link to your university years and we hope that through continued association with our organization, you can provide assistance to the future women of UNB," read the closing narration over a montage of photos.

Although women were making many gains at the University in the early 1980s, artifacts of sexism remained on campus, the most prominent of which was the Lady Godiva ride organized by students

in the Faculty of Engineering. Nicole Dicaire (BA '82), then a third-year Arts student, echoing the UNB Status of Women Committee, eloquently expressed the objections to the event in a 1981 letter to Dean of Students, Barry Thompson:

A custom which allows a group of predominantly male members to organize an event in which a single female is the target of disrespect, reflects on the integrity of both the males and females in the community. The depersonalization of the human involved, particularly when that person is not clothed, is a degrading experience for all.

Lady Godiva is a symbol, but a symbol of what? Does she tell us that women are important contributors to Engineering science? I think not. More likely, her ride implies that women are playmates and not colleagues, that women are no more than physical property.

In 1980, when we pay lip service to all professions being open to all worthy candidates, Engineering faculties are allowing informal, discriminatory practices which surely make it uncomfortable for many members of the university community both inside and outside the faculty.

The Chancellor is a Woman

In general, the Association did not take public positions on such matters, but it's quite likely the Alumnae were



Lady Violet Aitken succeeded her husband, Sir Max Aitken, as UNB's chancellor in May 1982.

pleased to see the Godiva tradition fade into history. A much more symbolically important and salutary event for the group was the installation in May 1982 of UNB's first woman chancellor, Lady Aitken (LLD '90), widow of Sir Max Aitken and the daughter-in-law of Lord Beaverbrook.



The 1982 book launch of *Those Certain Women*: (Left to right) Alumnae president Nancy Kilburn, author Linda Squiers Hansen, Chancellor Lady Aitken, and Her Honour Ruth Stanley, wife of the Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick.

The Association lost no time connecting with Lady Aitken, congratulating her on her appointment and inviting her participation in Alumnae activities. Her first official duty with the Association came on October 14, 1982 when she presided over the launch of *Those Certain Women*, Linda Squiers Hansen's history of the organization, at the Maggie Jean Chestnut House. With a cover designed by alumna Noreen Donahoe Valenta (BScCE '54) and a foreword by President James Downey, the book sold for a modest \$5.95. "The support and encouragement the Alumnae has given to women students have been instrumental in the increased participation and scholastic success of women at UNB," Dr. Downey wrote. "This lively account of the activities and personalities of the Associated

Alumnae deserves to be read by everyone with an interest in how UNB came to be the institution it is.”

A review of the book by alumna and journalist Jackie Webster (BA '52) was carried in the *Moncton Times-Transcript* on December 31, 1982. Ms. Webster noted, “Hansen, who is a graduate of the UNB history department, has provided a readable and worthwhile account of the Alumnae Society. Here is an account of the accomplishments for this small band of women; what they have done for the University, for themselves and for women students at UNB, but one cannot help regretting so much energy, determination and drive were required merely to establish their presence at UNB, their right to representation on the various university organizations, a right to their place on the Senate and to so many rights now taken for granted, but then seen only as privileges, grudgingly conceded.”

The appointment of Lady Aitken also brought with it the launch of the Third Century Fund Campaign, an ambitious \$10-million fund raising effort for a variety of University initiatives on both campuses. The Alumni and Alumnae associations both agreed to suspend their own fund raising activities during the course of the campaign, a situation that created some concern within the Alumnae executive. In an April 15, 1982 letter to her successor, Nancy Kilburn (BA '63, BEd '73), Mardi Cockburn wrote: “As you are aware, the Alumni/ Alumnae will not be raising any funds on their own for 1983-84 and perhaps beyond in order that the Third Century Fund Raising Campaign has every chance for success, indeed it must succeed. Some of our present projects do not fall within the guidelines outlined: for example, campus beautification, graduate travel, and emergency grants to students for travel.

“Perhaps we should take this opportunity to attempt some joint projects with the Alumni and indeed rethink our entire project program.

“Dr. Meagher [campaign manager] has agreed to recommend to the president that a sum of money be allotted to us for this period so that

we won't lose our identity within the university community during the fund raising, provided we limit our projects to those on the list. I can't see any problem with that proposal as there is plenty of leeway within the framework of the Third Century Fund project list.”

Indeed, the provision made during the Third Century Fund campaign to fund the activities of the Association became the model for the ensuing three decades. An annual allotment of about \$20,000 was allocated by the University from undesignated donations to enable the Alumnae to continue awarding scholarships and bursaries to women students, supporting campus beautification, adding books to the libraries in the women's residences, funding student travel, and making grants to special events of interest to women students.

Though Mrs. Cockburn stepped down as president of the Association in May 1982, she was to remain actively involved in the organization, serving as its representative on the Board of Governors and on numerous committees. It was she who urged the group to present copies of the Association's history to graduating students and secured funding from the Province's Bicentennial Commission and the University's own Bicentennial Committee so that the book could be reprinted in sufficient quantities to be distributed in 1984, during the New Brunswick bicentenary, to all female graduates at Encaenia in Fredericton and all graduates at Spring Convocation in Saint John, and in 1985, the University's bicentenary, to every graduate on the two campuses.

Nancy Kilburn, a professional designer from Fredericton, assumed the presidency of the Associated Alumnae in May 1982. Her counterpart on the Associated Alumni was its second woman president in as many years: Shirley Dysart (BA '58, LLD '96), only the second woman to serve in the New Brunswick Legislative Assembly and later to become its first woman Speaker.

A Growing Presence on Campus

Women students now constituted 40 per cent of the student body. Pressing issues, according to History professor Gillian Thompson in the January 1983 edition of *UNB Perspectives*, were the appointment of a female Dean of Students, supporting part-time students and creating a Women's Studies Program. Campus safety also became a pressing concern, with reports of threatening incidents near women's residences. Sexual harassment of students by professors, long ignored or swept under the carpet, became a more public matter, prompting President Downey to begin to address the institution's guidelines on "unprofessional conduct," and leading in 1985 to the development of a full-fledged sexual harassment policy.

Despite its strong commitment to the well-being of women students and the clear need for attention to women's issues, the Association struggled to find the most effective way to engage those students. Publicity chair Lesley Fleming reported at the 1983 AGM: "This winter I attempted to co-ordinate some joint meetings of the Alumnae and the girls of the various residences. These meetings were to involve speakers, invited to discuss a topic of interest to both the girls and the local alumnae members. After several conversations with Jennifer Campbell, the programme co-ordinator for the Women's Residence system, it became apparent there was no interest among the girls of most of the residences in such a proposal. Miss Campbell reports a dismal turn-out for any of the guest speakers whom she had invited to the residences. It seems to me unfortunate if the female students at this university are as closed to new ideas as Miss Campbell suggests, and it might be an idea to try to devise some method of reaching them."

Relevancy to the constituency it intends to serve has been a constant challenge for the Alumnae, with many kinds of events and activities attempted. In 1984 the Association extended its sponsorship to speakers in the Faculty of Nursing with some success, and to an "explosive" conference the same year organized by the Student Women's Committee featuring the radical feminist philosopher

Mary Daly; Madelaine LeBlanc, chair of the New Brunswick Advisory Council on the Status of Women; Sylvia Hale from the St. Thomas University Department of Social Sciences; and UNB Sociology professor Jennie Hornosty. Academic collaborations seemed to hold promise.

The Third Century Fund campaign continued apace, with alumna Pam Bacon Campbell (BA '67, BEd '73, MEd '88) co-chairing the alumni/alumnae canvass with alumnus Tim Bliss (BScCE '54). Although the Association had suspended its direct solicitation of members, the group continued to sell its pewter porringer, bearing the University coat of arms, which had been produced by Ivan Crowell's (BSF '29, DLitt '92) Pewtersmiths Studio for the Association since 1977. Initially managed by Ms. Kilburn, the porringer project became the primary focus of Thelma Kolding (BA '37, BEd '62) in 1980. Mrs. Kolding's dedication to sales ensured the porringer was a frequently presented as a gift by the University as well as by alumnae, and enabled the line of pewter products to expand in 1987 to include a pin, a pendant and a letter opener.

In late 1983 Gillian Thompson was appointed Advisor to the President on the Status of Women and alumna and Board of Governors member Sylvia Wilson (BA '61, BEd '63) was appointed to the university's new Status of Women Committee. The purpose of the committee was to promote the status of women, especially by bringing in distinguished speakers; develop a Women's Studies Program; and improve and protect women's status at UNB. The Association's connection to the committee through Ms. Wilson ensured the organization had the ear of the President and was seen to play a meaningful role in women's issues at the University.

Ms. Kilburn was succeeded as Alumnae President in 1984 by former Beaverbrook Scholar and educator Marion Leaman (BA '66, BEd '78, MEd '83). Among her first duties of office was to write a letter to 145 alumnae in the Fredericton area asking them to provide temporary accommodations for students as the residences were filled beyond capacity. That fall, Lady Beaverbrook Residence

had become UNB's first on-campus co-ed residence, while Business professor Linda Dyer became the first woman don of a male residence (Bridges House), heralding a new era in accommodations at the University. The following spring, Sylvia Wilson raised concerns about the lack of residence choice for women, the future of the position of the Dean of Women and the quality of security on campus, prompting the Association to strike a committee of Ms. Wilson, Mary Ellen Tait and Althea Macaulay (BA '39, LLD '90) to advise the University on the impending reorganization of the residence system. Ultimately, the men's and women's systems were merged, with Education professor Mary Lou Stirling (BA '68) appointed Associate Dean of Residences (Engineering professor Dwight Scott [BScME '64, MScME '68, BEd '72] served as the Dean), and Joy Kidd retiring after 19 years as UNB's last Dean of Women.

One of the Association's earliest members, Zula V. Hallett (BA 1911), who had served twice as its president, died in late 1984, leaving \$10,000 to the Association for the purpose of establishing a scholarship in her name for a second-year student--male or female--from Marysville, NB. It was a substantial bequest for a retired teacher to make and a large one for the organization, providing an endowment for one of its major scholarships. Of the organization Miss Hallett once observed, "I think we can truly say the Alumnae Society has more than proved its usefulness. What stronger tie do we need with the University?"

The Celebrations Begin

The Bicentennial Convocation in October 1985 saw nine honorary degrees, one per faculty, awarded on the Fredericton campus. Executive Director of the Canadian Nurses Association, Ginette Rodger (DSc '85) nominated by the Faculty of Nursing, was the only woman. An article in *UNB Perspectives*, published at the same time, contained an article on the dilemma of women faculty at UNB: only 14 of 259 were full professors; 27 of 153 were associate professors; 25 of 71 were assistant professors; and 12 of 22 were lecturers.

What UNB's Bicentennial lacked in recognition of women was made up for by the 1986 centenary of Mary Kingsley Tibbits' admission to UNB. A special commemorative poster, featuring a photograph of women faculty, staff, students and alumnae from all walks of life was widely distributed. The Associated Alumnae hosted a tea at which Lady Aitken unveiled a portrait of Mary Tibbits in the residence which bears her name. *UNB Perspectives* devoted an entire issue to the women of UNB, and honorary degrees were presented at Fall Convocation in Fredericton to Acadian songstress Edith Butler (DLitt '86), children's literary expert Sheila Egoff (DLitt '86), and two UNB alumnae: ophthalmologist Eileen



The Associated Alumnae celebrated the 100th anniversary of the admission of women to UNB in 1986, for which a commemorative poster was created. Shown left to right: alumna and designer Jane Guerts, Chancellor Lady Aitken and President James Downey.

Nason Cambon (BSc '46, DSc '86), and bank manager Rebecca Watson. In her Convocation address, Dr. Cambon observed, "I feel most humble on being chosen for this occasion...I have to accept this honor in the name of all the women graduates from University of New Brunswick. Some have distinguished themselves in so many fields; many others, equally deserving, remain unsung.

"Challenging social problems affront the graduates of this decade," she continued. "Two urgent ones concern women: The single-parent family, ever on the increase, with usually the woman trying to cope; and the over-65 women, two thirds of whom live below the poverty line—older women are still the poorest of the poor in Canada. To improve the status of these women will take another great surge of women's power, with specialized groups, men and women, to fight for social reforms.

"One hundred years ago Mary Tibbits entertained no doubts about her role. I have no doubts that you, men and women graduates of this university will rise to meet this challenge," Dr. Cambon concluded.

Althea Macaulay, who had actually met Mary K. Tibbits when she was awarded an honorary degree at Dr. Macaulay's graduation ceremony in 1939, followed Mrs. Leaman as Alumnae president in 1986. A former Beaverbrook Scholar and Biology instructor, this was but the latest in a long series of contributions Dr. Macaulay had made to the University. At various times she had also served as the secretary and as the treasurer of the Alumnae, and was simultaneously recording secretary of the Associated Alumni (and the only woman on its council) during her term as president of the Alumnae.

This was not only the year Mary Tibbits' accomplishments were celebrated, it was also the year when the Women's Studies Program at last became a reality as an interdisciplinary minor. Its founders were History professor Gillian Thompson, Psychology professor Vicky Gray, Sociology professor Jennie Hornosty, and English professor Wendy Robbins. Designed to "explore the previously ignored contributions

of women, as well as such issues as sexual harassment, inequality and women at work,” the program was open to all but Law students. UNB Psychology professor and Women’s Studies coordinator Janet Stoppard noted in *The Brunswickan*, “...the program supplements and complements the information gained in other disciplines. Its future usefulness to personnel managers, community planners and Public Policy professionals and others will be beneficial.” (In 2000-01, Women’s Studies would expand to a double major/joint honours program.)



The Women’s Studies Program was launched in 1986 by founding professors, left to right, Wendy Robbins, Jenny Hornosty, Vicky Gray and Gillian Thompson.

Breaking Through the Glass Ceiling

Two major firsts occurred at UNB in 1987. In a landslide victory, garnering 81.4 per cent of the vote, Jane Arnold (BA ’88) was elected the first woman president of the Student Union. “Men and women should participate equally in student politics,” she said at the time of taking office. “Sex shouldn’t be an issue.” And Doris Ryan, a distinguished administrator from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, was appointed Vice-President of the Saint John campus, the first woman to hold a place in the top tier of the University’s administration.

Other gains were being made. Long-serving Classics professor and former departmental chair Mary Ella Milham, who the year before had published a history of her department entitled *Latin 'n' Greek 'n' A...*, established the Milham Lectures. Focused on the book arts, it was the first lecture series at UNB to bear a woman's name. In October 1987, Singer Hall, home of the Faculty of Business Administration, was officially opened. It was named in honour of Ethel Singer (BA '35, MA '38), the first Jewish woman to attend UNB, whose sister Sadie had left a substantial bequest to UNB for the purpose of constructing a building.

The Alumnae Association had started funding an award for part-time students in 1985. More than 60 per cent of part-time students were women, and the award was seen as an important component of the Association's support for women students. By 1988, income from the pewter project was such that it could fund the part-time students' award. At the same time, the University reconfirmed continuation of its annual \$20,000 grant to the Association for its activities.

One of the most signal accomplishments of Dr. Macaulay's term was the publication of a comprehensive information brochure on the Association explaining its purpose and describing its work. The brochure was distributed to graduating women, among others, with the intent of engaging them in the Association.

Educator Mary Ellen Tait, long an active member who had previously served as one of the Association's representatives to the Board of Governors, assumed the presidency in 1988. Five years earlier, as she was completing her term on the Board, she had noted, "It is my belief the Alumnae Association has developed a close liaison with the governing bodies and the administration; and that we must continue to promote, support and, where possible, provide input to those policies and actions of the University which improve the education and the quality of life of its students."

Mrs. Tait was among those Alumnae members who applauded loudly in October 1988 when the Eileen Wallace Children's Literature

Collection opened in d'Avray Hall. Alumna Eileen Wallace (BA '44, DLitt '01), long-serving member of the Faculty of Education, donated her entire library of children's books, creating the largest such collection east of the Osborne Collection in Toronto. A bequest of 70 children's books received from Margaret Hood (BA '45) was added to the collection, bringing it to 2,250 books in total. In subsequent years, Dr. Wallace would continue to support the collection generously, adding acquisitions, creating a curatorship and establishing a graduate fellowship.

A Purpose Reinforced

The report of the President's Committee on Alumni Affairs was released in January 1989, co-chaired by Barbara Baird (BA '74, LLB '76), who later that year would become the first woman leader of the New Brunswick PC Party, and UNB Dean of Engineering Frank Wilson (BScCE '62, MScCE '63). UNB now had 18,264 male and 10,645 female graduates, but the report's 28 recommendations were noticeably silent on the role of the Associated Alumnae. The committee strongly endorsed efforts to analyze "the changing composition of the University's alumni population, as well as the larger socio-economic framework within which the alumni operation and the university itself are situated, and to rethink its service strategies in terms of who its current and emerging markets are and in terms of what is known and projected about their attributes, needs, wishes, and circumstances." Among those cited were the size of classes, the growing numbers of adult and part-time students, students earning degrees off campus, international students, the needs of particular constituencies (law engineering, nursing, computer science, education), frequent career change and lifelong learning, population aging, and the changing pace of family life—but not women.

The Association soldiered on nonetheless. Throughout the 1980s, the Association had made a concerted effort to nominate deserving women for honorary degrees, with some considerable success. In the forty years between 1939, when Mary Tibbits became the first

woman to be so recognized by UNB, and 1979, only 34 honorary degrees were awarded to women, an average of less than one a year. In the ten years between 1980 and 1990, 22 honorary degrees went to women, an average of more than two a year.



The 100th anniversary of Mary Tibbits' graduation was celebrated by the Associated Alumnae: (Left to right) Della Wylie, Althea Macaulay, UNB President James Downey, Shirley Dyart and Alumnae president Mary Ellen Tait.

The Alumnae marked the centennial of Mary Tibbits' graduation in March 1989. Also that month, a revived UNB Drama Society put on "Talking With...", by American playwright, Jane Martin to celebrate International Women's Day. Based on a collection of experiences by women on the fringes, assistant director Linda McNutt (MA '90, PhD '04) added Bertha Chase to the script, speaking on the experience of Mary Tibbits. Producer Pam Lougheed noted, "Bertha Chase was not only a classmate of Mary Kingsley Tibbits who didn't finish her studies. Like the other women who make up the characters in this play, Chase represents women on the outside, whose lives have been marginalized and who, due to circumstances or destiny, we never heard from again. Compared to her more famous classmate, she

is lost to us and to history.” The production was supported by the Faculty of Arts and the President.

Later that year Marg Lambert was appointed chair of a committee with Eileen Wallace and Nancy Kilburn to develop a list of priorities for granting funds to students. Their list included assistance for students presenting a paper at a national or international conference; special learning experiences not available at UNB, e.g. CUSO; special projects relating to UNB or the Alumnae such as historical research or the collection of archival material; and assistance for national or international conferences of an educational nature sponsored by UNB students. These were approved that fall.

In September, past president Nancy Kilburn made the Association’s official response to the presidential search committee seeking Dr. Downey’s successor, stating, “We would emphasize that equal consideration be given to candidates who meet the qualifications regardless of gender.”

And then the unthinkable happened. On December 6, 1989, Marc Lépine, claiming to be “fighting feminism,” killed 14 women and wounded many others at Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal. The Montreal Massacre profoundly affected, and continues to affect, women students’ perception of their still somewhat tenuous place in Canada’s universities.

Shock, outrage and sorrow swept the country in the wake of this unprecedented tragedy. At UNB, where Monique Frize had just been appointed Canada’s first Chair in Women in Engineering, the memorial service for those women who died was particularly meaningful and the expressions of grief heartfelt. An association dedicated to supporting women students suddenly seemed more important and relevant than ever before.

CHAPTER 2: A DECADE OF REAL PROGRESS

The 1990s would prove to be a watershed decade for women at UNB and for the Associated Alumnae. Bracketed at both the beginning and the end by Association committees examining the future and purpose of the organization, the decade would ultimately be a time of reaffirmation of the increasing influence of women in and on the University community, and the importance of the Alumnae.

In the wake of the Montreal Massacre, concerns about women's safety and status at the University remained top of mind. A new security system in the residences was introduced, with the buildings locked 24 hours a day and residents provided with keys. Articles in *The Brunswickan* continued to reflect on the tragedy in Montreal and its far-reaching consequences. On International Women's Day in 1990, the Student Women's Committee and the newly formed Fredericton Women's Theatre Collective presented flights, a student-written and directed production of 11 monologues dedicated to the memory of the 14 victims.

Women Are Recognized

Robin Armstrong (DSc '01), Dean of Arts and Science at the University of Toronto, was selected to succeed James Downey. Attuned to the issues of the day, an editorial in *The Brunswickan*

mused, “What for instance is his position on the gender question in the hiring policy of Canadian universities?”

By the time Dr. Armstrong assumed office in September 1990, the number of female undergraduate students was approaching parity with the number of males: 4,904 to 5,166 or 48.7 per cent. But only 23 per cent of the 556 faculty on the two campuses was female. In recognition of this, the Faculty of Law, where 40 per cent of the students but only 11 per cent of the faculty were women, struck a committee on Gender-Related Policy to attempt to redress the imbalance. Another action that faculty took was to establish, with the support of the Beaverbrook Canadian Foundation, the Mary Louise Lynch Chair in Women and the Law. Named in honour of one of UNB’s most distinguished women Law graduates, legal advisor to Lord Beaverbrook and member of the Board of Governors for 30 years, the Chair was held from 1992 to 2001 by Patricia Hughes, who later became Dean of Law at the University of Calgary.

This was to be but the first of many firsts for women at UNB during the 1990s.

The Association was pleased to see Chancellor Lady Aitken, whom they had nominated, awarded an honorary degree at that spring’s Encaenia and subsequently designated Chancellor Emerita in the fall of 1992 at the completion of her term. University Orator and professor of History Stephen Patterson (BA’59) described her thus in his citation: “...having agreed to become our chancellor, she attacked her job with a loyalty to the University matched by few, past or present. Attendance at encaenia and convocation both in Fredericton and Saint John has been her priority twice a year for eight years. And beyond the call of duty, she has eagerly presided over the special encaenia exercises in Kenya in 1983, represented the University at the gathering of the Commonwealth Universities in Perth, Australia, and visited the most distant chapter of UNB alumni in Hong Kong, where she was an enormous hit.” The Association invited her to continue as its “honorary president.”

Even more satisfying was the recognition of the exceptional dedication of long-serving executive member of the Association, Althea Warren Macaulay, at the 1990 Fall Convocation in Fredericton. Orator Patterson explained, “For fifty years, Althea Macaulay has given of her time and talents to this University, earning the respect of generations of our students, graduates, and friends, and establishing standards of loyalty and commitment seldom matched. Our purpose here today is to say a simple but deeply felt ‘Thank You’ to one of our own. We do so with this, the University’s highest honour.”

Characteristically modest, Dr. Macaulay wrote to the members of the Association, saying, “I feel the [honorary] degree was given to me as a symbol of the work done over many years by the Alumnae Association and was meant to honour all of us. It was in that spirit I accepted it.”

Changes in Leadership

Nancy Kilburn returned to the Association’s presidency in 1990. There was also a changing of the guard in the Office of Alumni Affairs that year, with alumnus Robert N. Skillen (BPE ’79, BEd ’81, MEd ’88) succeeding Art Doyle, who had served for 19 years, as Executive Director. At the time of Mr. Skillen’s appointment to the position, Pauline MacKenzie (BA ’65, BEd ’67, MEd ’82) was president of the Associated Alumni, the third woman in less than a decade to hold this office. Focused primarily on the larger, all-inclusive association, Mr. Skillen went on during his 11-year tenure to formalize a stronger relationship between the University and its two alumni/alumnae organizations.

The committee structure over which Ms. Kilburn presided included Beautification, Honours and Awards, Finance, Planning, CFUW, Scholarships, Pewter, Nursing Liaison, Memorial Books, Student Liaison, Board of Governors, Alumni Council and Publicity. To these were added an Ad hoc Committee on Alumnae Affairs with Linda Holt (BA ’73)--who later resumed use of her maiden name ‘Dashwood’--as its chair. Doubts about the Association’s role

independent of the Associated Alumni continued to linger, and Ms. Dashwood leaned toward amalgamation of the two organizations. Forty-four per cent of the University's 23,911 graduates were women, thereby giving the Alumnae Association more than 10,000 members, though engaging those outside of Fredericton remained a challenge.

But after 80 years of existence, the Association would not make any hasty decisions about changing its mission. The Alumnae had just provided 25 per cent of the funding for a major campus beautification project: a sculpture garden beside the Alumni Memorial Building featuring Claude Roussel's *Man of Science* (acquired years before from Expo '67), Henry Purdy's *Virgin*, Rick Seguin's *Norfolk Pine*, and two benches and tables.

It was also a major sponsor of the Monique Begin Nursing Advancement Competition established by the Nursing Alumni Association. The Alumnae Association donated a \$500 first prize for the best student presentation and Monique Begin herself, Canada's former Minister of Health and Welfare, was on hand to make the award.

A third major initiative in which the Association took a lead role was the Nurturing Ourselves Conference organized by the Faculty of Nursing and the then-Department of Extension and Summer Session (now the College of Extended Learning). This annual two-day conference focused on women's health and wellness and showcased many outstanding women over its 20-year history (1990-2009), including singer Rita MacNeil (DLitt '88), journalist Ann Medina (DLitt '97), author Sheree Fitch, feminist Judy Rebick and social activist Claudette Bradshaw.

Gauging Progress Within the University

English professor Wendy Robbins, one of the "founding mothers" of the Women's Studies Program, had succeeded History professor Gillian Thompson as chair of the President's Advisory Committee on

the Status of Women. Almost immediately upon his arrival, President Armstrong was presented with a new report from the committee called *Of More Than Academic Interest: Women at UNB*, a progress review of the decade since the 1979 task force report chaired by Dean of Nursing Irene Leckie and “a discussion of priorities for the 1990s.” Although there was no direct mention of women graduates in the document, two Alumnae Association stalwarts, Althea Macaulay and Florence Snodgrass, were acknowledged for their contributions to the report. The report, which covered women as students (with a special section on part-time learners, a particular focus of the Association), women in the curriculum, women as faculty, women in administration and women on staff, also contained a list of milestones which included Mary Tibbits’ admission and graduation; the founding of the Alumnae Society in 1910; and the acquisition of Maggie Jean Chestnut House, the first women’s residence, in 1949.

The report projected parity in numbers between male and female students by 1999; for male and female faculty, however, parity was projected in 2048, more than 50 years hence. But progress, albeit slower than was considered desirable, was being made within the University administration. UNB alumna and professor of English Diana Austin (BA ’73) was appointed Associate Dean of Arts in 1990, the first woman to hold any decanal position in that faculty even though female students had long outnumbered men in Arts. (Arts was late entering the scene. Sharon Bachinski had served as Assistant Dean of Science in the early 1980s and Carol Loughrey [BBA ’70] had been Assistant Dean of Business in 1987-88). Judith Potter was appointed the first woman Assistant Dean of Students, concurrent with her position with Adult Learner Services in the Department of Extension. Sociologist Jennie Hornosty became the first woman president of the Association of University of New Brunswick Teachers. The following year, UNB appointed its second female registrar, Deanne Dennison.

The Association Continues Its Work

With the introduction of public kindergarten in 1991, the Associated Alumnae, with the urging of past president Mary Ellen Tait, established an ad hoc committee to develop an information package to assist any kindergarten teacher entering or returning to UNB for further education. The kits were distributed through the school districts.

The Association continued to grapple with the most effective way to reach out to women students. Scholarship support clearly had an impact, but teas and dessert parties, even pizza parties at a local restaurant, did not draw attendance, even from the scholarship recipients themselves. The executive, led by Linda Dashwood who became Alumnae president in 1992, decided instead to run a course on business skills and etiquette in the workplace, and to develop a mentoring program for women students. The latter was eagerly embraced by the Associated Alumni and the University (though not necessarily credited to the Alumnae), while the Alumnae purchased brochures and two videos on business etiquette for use by the Campus Employment Centre in lieu of putting on annual seminars.

The Alumni Award of Honour, which had been in hiatus since 1982 and only ever awarded to one woman, Muriel Farris Baird, in recognition of her role in acquiring Maggie Jean Chestnut House, was revived in 1992 and presented, appropriately, to Rebecca Watson, first woman president of the Associated Alumni. The following year it was awarded to Althea Warren Macaulay and Ilsa Greenblatt Shore (BA '71, BEd '71, PD-ED '75, LLB '79), a prominent lawyer and the organizer of many Toronto alumni events, who in 1994 would become the first woman Chair of the Board of Governors. Other female recipients in the decade were former Alumnae presidents Mary Hashey (BA '31), Margaret Lambert, Mardi Cockburn and Mary Ellen Tait, as well as accomplished alumnae Sheila Roberts (BA '43), long-time choreographer of the famed Red 'n' Black Revue kickline; volunteer extraordinaire Sadie Miller (Class of '60); and Judy Budovitch (BEEd '70, LLB '75), a lawyer and gifted community leader.

Another administrative breakthrough occurred in the fall of 1992 when Psychology professor Janet Stoppard, first coordinator of the Women's Studies Program, was appointed Dean of Graduate Studies, the first woman in this role. Women's access to graduate studies was her key focus: "We've made a lot of progress in the last decade, so that many of the barriers may now be more perceived than real, but it's important to change those perceptions where they're wrong. Many women may not realize that almost all of our graduate programs can be taken on a part-time basis, and there are other provisions to accommodate needs in women's lives, such as having children. The granting councils that provide funds now recognize those needs and so does UNB," Dr. Stoppard noted. She was joined the following year by Laverne Smith, the first woman to be appointed Dean of Education. The ranks were growing.

In November 1992 the Association was called upon to help the 90 women students displaced by a serious fire in the Lady Dunn Residence. Alumna and professor of Education Mary Lou Stirling, who had become Dean of Residences in late 1989, at that time one of only two deans (out of 12) at UNB who was a woman, handled the situation with swift professionalism and care. No students were injured and, by January 1993, the students had returned to their rooms.

Lady Aitken was succeeded as Chancellor of UNB in the spring of 1993 by alumnus Fredrik S. Eaton (BA '62, LLD '83), then serving as the High Commissioner for Canada in London. In her capacity as president, Linda Dashwood wrote him a letter of welcome, introducing the Association and noting, "In today's changing world there is much to do and we are attempting to reflect the needs of the marketplace as it relates to women's issues."

Women's Issues Brought to the Fore

By the fall, UNB would become the centre of a national media frenzy with the publication of an opinion piece on date rape, a subject that had become current on campus, by Mathematics professor Matin Yaqzan. Entitled "Rape Past and Present," Prof.

Yaqzan stated that “today’s girl” has had many sexual experiences and abortions and therefore shouldn’t be as bothered by rape as a traditional virgin. The controversy about Prof. Yaqzan’s opinion and his right to express it raged for weeks. On-campus groups such as the Wimmin’s Collective and prominent personalities such as self-described dissident feminist Camille Paglia and talk show host Phil Donahue got into the fray. While the Associated Alumnae made no formal statement on the matter, the University took a position squarely in opposition, pointing out the numerous gains made in addressing sexual harassment, date rape and unwanted sexual experiences among students. Prof. Yaqzan was suspended from his post and subsequently retired.

As the “Yaqzan Affair” reverberated on campus and beyond, concerns about women students again rose to the surface. *The Brunswickian* reflected many of these concerns in articles not only about Prof. Yaqzan’s views, but larger and more far-reaching topics such as sexual orientation, sexual assault and violence against women as a man’s, as well as a woman’s, issue.

The Association, which had focused exclusively on UNB Fredericton since inception, extended its support for the first time to the Saint John campus in 1993, allocating \$150 to a women’s resource centre, which was used to purchase books related to women’s studies for that campus. Minutes from the AGM that year noted that the Alumnae had purchased more than 500 reference and library books for the women’s residences in Fredericton over the past 40 years.

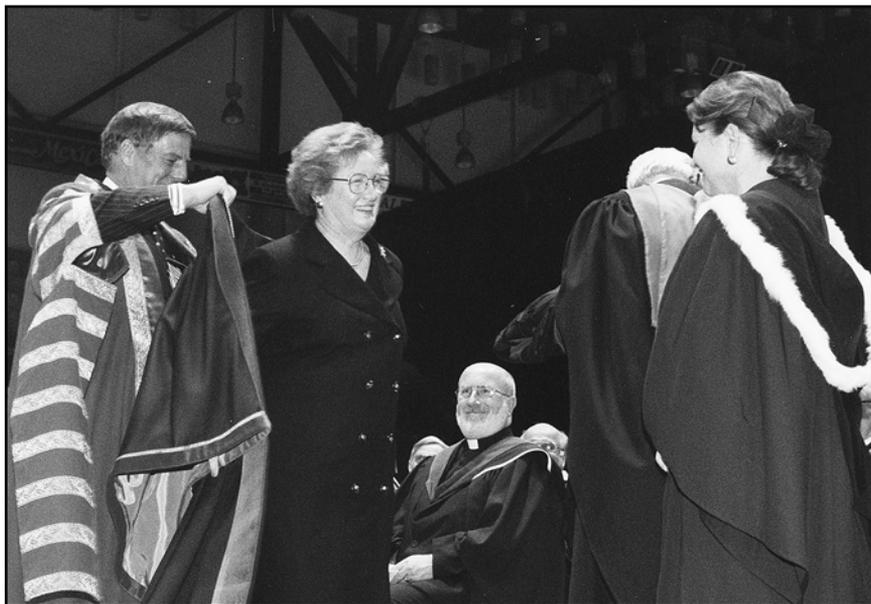
With the help of Mary Lou Stirling, the Association approached alumnus Wayne Squibb (BA ’68), co-owner of the Delta Hotel chain, about donating furniture to Maggie Jean Chestnut and other residences from the hotel’s Ottawa facility. Mr. Squibb obliged by arranging for a truckload of furnishings to be sent to Fredericton. The Alumnae rededicated themselves to supporting Maggie Jean, inviting students to draw up a list of needs for which they could fund raise. It was therefore not surprising that the group experienced a feeling of “total shock” in the spring of 1994 when the Residence

System Budget Committee proposed that the Maggie Jean be closed, used for alternate purposes or sold. Having thought the issue had been laid to rest in the mid-1980s, the group rallied once again and drew up a detailed, four-page defense of the residence, citing history, the quality of life offered and its appeal to international students, the summer occupancy income, and the potentially damaging impact on The Venture Campaign, a \$30-million fund raising effort then underway, should closure happen. With the support of President Armstrong and various Board of Governors members, the brief achieved its purpose and any plans to mothball Maggie Jean were set aside for the time being.

Barbara Baird became Alumnae president at the AGM in 1994, the 75th anniversary of the incorporation of the Association. The semi-annual meeting that September marked that occasion as well as a celebration of the Maggie Jean, observing 45 years as a UNB residence. Bank of Montreal senior vice-president Donald Marsh presented a framed copy of the deed transferring the house from the bank to Lord Beaverbrook in 1949 and Roger Baird (Class of '61), son of the Maggie Jean's great champion, Muriel Farris Baird, and his wife Viva presented a landscape painting, *Rural Scene* by L. Pernet, to the don of the house, Moira McLaughlin, to be hung in the common rooms.

History Is Made: UNB's First Woman President

In 1995--the same year that women's soccer became a varsity sport, alumna Sally McAllister (BA '72, BEd '73) became first vice-president (and president-elect) of the Associated Alumni, and the Alumnae commemorated the 25th anniversary of Tibbits Hall--President Armstrong announced his intention to step down in 1996. The seven-member Nominating Committee for the Office of President that was struck included Chair of the Board of Governors, Ilsa Shore; Alumni Council member Carey Ryan (BA '70, PD-ED '78, MEd '79); and the Chair of Women in Engineering, Monique Frize.



Chancellor Fredrik S. Eaton assists Elizabeth Parr-Johnston in donning her robe as she is installed as UNB's first woman president in October 1996.

Whether or not the significant representation of women on the committee made the difference, the candidate brought forward was Elizabeth Parr-Johnston (DLitt '04), then-president of Mount Saint Vincent University. She would become UNB's first woman president and vice-chancellor, an appointment heralded, somewhat awkwardly but entirely genuinely, by an editorialist in *The Brunswickan* on March 1, 1996: "I commend the university for setting in motion the first female president in UNB's 211 year illustrious history." Yet another appointment of note was announced at that time: alumna Anne La Forest (LLB '84) was named UNB's first woman Dean of Law.

Just as Dr. Parr-Johnston was named to the presidency, the New Brunswick Advisory Committee on the Status of Women released its report card in honour of International Women's Day 1996. The statistics revealed much remained to be done. Within the province, 47 per cent of women held a high school diploma or higher, compared with 45 per cent of men; 67 per cent of all women were in the work

force, earning an average of \$15,300, 59 per cent of the average for men; and women working full-time were earning 64 per cent of the average for men, an increase of just two per cent since 1971.

A gap in leadership succession was created when the Association's first vice-president stepped down at the AGM in 1996. Barbara Baird, who had just completed a two-year term as president, and past president Linda Dashwood, who had served from 1992 to 1994, agreed to share a term, with Ms. Dashwood taking the first year of the mandate.

In her role as president, Ms. Dashwood wrote to President Parr-Johnston introducing her to the Association. She enumerated the various financial contributions to the University from the \$22,000 grant it received: \$19,000 to scholarships, \$1,500 to graduate student travel, \$500 for emergency loans and \$1,000 held back for granting throughout the year. She also noted that the proceeds from the pewter project, which now included a pin, a pendant and a letter opener, as well as a porringer, were allocated to awards for part-time students.

Reflecting her own doubts about the efficacy of the group, she went on to note, "The Association lives in a tenuous world where their existence is known only to a small handful of women graduates. In the larger scheme of things, in a world that long since put gender matters aside, the Alumni is normally recognized as the group that is representative to graduates. The question remains as to whether there exists a place for the continuation of the Alumnae Association in the next century."

Despite her own undergraduate experience at Wellesley, a women's college located on the outskirts of Boston, Dr. Parr-Johnston shared some of Ms. Dashwood's skepticism. In an interview conducted for this history, she recalled,

I regarded them as something of an anachronism. At the time the Alumni were also doing lots of soul-searching about

their role and relationship with UNB. There seemed to be some redundancy between the groups.

The Alumnae has always had a number of very dedicated people and it does represent a safe place for women to gather to fight for and maintain their place within the University. They are concerned about women and the University, possibly the only group that is.

UNB has a male-dominated culture, in part because the mix of programs is oriented to male interests. The Alumnae do focus on women's interests, especially campus safety.

The Alumnae Association's roles are not high profile. UNB is often not proud of the issues they have brought to the fore. Many in the group are bound and determined to see things change. The designated seats that the Alumnae hold on the Board and Senate are important to making this happen.

The Alumnae Association was always supportive of me, even when I wasn't of them. Over the course of my term, I changed my mind about them. Of course, they will have really succeeded when they go out of business.

They need a sustainability model that will bring them more resources and younger members. Maybe they should aim to take over the Associated Alumni!

A Question of Purpose

Cognizant that many of its active members were growing old, the Association began an oral history project in 1996, with Althea Macaulay first interviewing one of the most senior alumnae, Helen Scott (BA '20), about her experiences as a student at UNB. Past president Nancy Kilburn agreed to take up the project and completed an interview with artist Mary Coughy Hashey the following year. Their concern about creating a record was well-founded: Florence

Snodgrass, one of the first four Beaverbrook Scholars, a Psychology professor and only the second woman to head a department at UNB, died in the spring of 1997 before an interview could be taped. The bequest she left to UNB, almost \$2 million for a student loan fund, distinguished her as UNB's most generous female philanthropist.

As Linda Dashwood prepared to turn the presidency back over to Barbara Baird at the 1997 AGM, she made a bold parting gesture. She presented a document outlining the group's history, a document that strongly suggested the Association had outlived its usefulness.

In the history of every group there is a turning point. For some groups it means seeking a new mandate, a new *raison d'être*, and for others it means closure. There is no shame in the latter, if the goals of the group have been realized.

The Associated Alumnae has always demonstrated its loyalty to the university. For many years, members of the Alumnae have been active members of the university community serving on the Senate and the Board of Governors. The Alumnae Association has always promoted the advancement of women while at university, and supported them as alumnae. Through such dedication, the university can now boast of the first woman President, Women's Chairs in Law and Engineering, Equity in the workplace, and women presidents of the Alumni Association. It is a proud legacy.

Like the early 1900's, the end of the century brings with it a new kind of culture. Today women take their place beside men, on equal footing. Women are strongly represented on campus as students and faculty. Women are no longer excluded, but included in all facets of university life, from choosing presidents, to serving on committees. Our voice and opinions are valued, and sought after. Women no longer need to strive to be recognized because we have bravely established ourselves with the university community.

So as we look to the future, we need to look at the rationale for continuing our mandate. Do we need to be a separate voice? How should we be represented? Will our work be fulfilled in some manner? As difficult as it may be, the answers are clear. We have succeeded in our original mandate and the time has come to make another brave and bold decision. In the true spirit of Those Certain Women, written by the Associated Alumnae, we need to move on to this new time, this new phase of our existence.

Some may see this as an ending, but in fact it is a beginning. As the university faces the new century, we are once again called upon to be the leaders. We need to show that only in our togetherness can we truly help the university. Our separateness was for another time.

She went on to propose that the Associated Alumnae disband and join the Alumni Association to have one organization focused on alumni affairs, and she outlined various conditions that would be contained in an agreement between the organizations to ensure continued support of women students.

One can only imagine the stunned silence that must have met her presentation that day. The minutes of the May 31, 1997 AGM blandly record, "A discussion followed and numerous valid points were made. As a result, Linda withdrew her motion."

The members present struck a committee to consider the matter further. Incoming president Barbara Baird; Althea Macaulay; Jane McGinn-Giberson (BScCE '88, MScCE '99), assistant dean and director of the Faculty of Engineering's Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics program and first vice-president of the Alumnae; Linda Dashwood; and Mardi Cockburn were chosen to serve on it.

(Somewhat ironically, at exactly the time these deliberations were taking place among the Alumnae, teacher Sally McAllister became the fourth woman president of the Associated Alumni.)

The Committee on the Future of the Associated Alumnae lost no time, holding its first meeting on June 20, 1997. Chaired by Barbara Baird, the committee defined its role as fivefold: to review the possibility of affiliating or amalgamating with the Associated Alumni; to identify the ongoing role and function of the Alumnae; to establish a liaison with the Alumni; to examine possible future structures of the Alumnae; and to review current and identify future activities. The committee loosely organized itself around two poles: Linda Dashwood and Jane McGinn for dissolution and Althea Macaulay and Mardi Cockburn against. Each had an assignment, with Ms. McGinn-Giberson addressing women's issues on campus, Ms. Dashwood preparing a report on the future of the Alumnae as part of the Alumni, and Dr. Macaulay and Mrs. Cockburn looking at ways to strengthen the current organization. In addition, Barbara Baird put out a call through the Alumni Office inviting input from alumnae generally.

The only other alumnae association in the country by this time was at McGill, the group at Queen's having amalgamated with the alumni association there in 1990. A Standing Committee on Women's Affairs with the alumni association had been one of the terms negotiated in the Queen's merger. At McGill, the 108-year-old alumnae association remained quite active and apparently successful, though focused almost exclusively on the graduates living in Montreal. Here, then, were two models to consider.

In her examination of women's issues on campus, Ms. McGinn-Giberson reviewed the organization's current activities, noting, "... these center around the Fredericton Campus and Fredericton area. The Associated Alumnae does not exist as a social organization for its members, but neither does it currently permit the active participation of members from outside Fredericton."

Ms. McGinn-Giberson identified several additional areas of real need for women students: childcare scholarships (the College Hill Daycare had opened on the Fredericton campus in 1994 with 22 spaces reserved for students' children); increased general

scholarships; other kinds of student support such as finding winter clothes for international students or making cookies for students at exam time; shifting the provision of memorial books from residence libraries to a more generally accessible alumnae collection in the main library; and providing networking opportunities both between students and members, and among members themselves. She concluded that these expanded activities could take place, perhaps even more effectively, if the Alumnae were to become a subset of the Alumni organization.

“If the membership decides to change its structure, perhaps by becoming more closely tied to or a subgroup of the Associated Alumni, the new life could come from the wider visibility, easier access to supports, clearer identification and access to alumnae who wish to participate with the alumni group,” she suggested.

Meanwhile, Dr. Macaulay and Mrs. Cockburn were looking into “maintaining the Association and possibly modifying it to make it more in tune with the needs of women on the verge of the 21st century.” They interviewed President Parr-Johnston, who declined to take a position on the issue but wished them well; interviewed Tom Austin (BA ’67, BEd ’68, MScCS ’73), dean of students, about the needs of women on campus; investigated the Queen’s and McGill models; and drew from their own considerable experience with the group. They acknowledged the limited geographical scope of the current organization and the small number of alumnae who actively participated, but felt strongly the Association should “maintain our existence as an affiliated group with the Associated Alumni of UNB. We appreciate the fact that our name is on the office door and that very cordial relations exist between our members and the staff of the office, and with members of the Alumni Council and the council at large.”

Their further recommendations were presented to the August 13, 1997 meeting of the Committee on the Future of the Associated Alumnae: that the executive of the Association be drawn from the City of Fredericton to eliminate distance and travel; that the

Association organize a think tank of women from across campus to identify issues relevant to alumnae; that the Association approach the University for additional funding to begin in 1998-99; that the Association establish a series of lectures involving female graduates of the University; that the executive be expanded to include representatives from other groups and organizations representing women on campus; that a page in the *Alumni News* be devoted to the Alumnae; and that Alumnae scholarship winners be entertained at an annual luncheon.

At the semi-annual meeting in September of that year, the committee provided an update on its findings and Barbara Baird proposed a motion, which was passed, that the committee approach the Executive Director of Alumni Affairs, Bob Skillen, for a discussion “to negotiate the role of the Alumnae in the Alumni with the intention of keeping our charter.”

A Time of Change and Renewed Commitment

The Association’s concern about its future coincided with the University’s own Renewal Process, begun in the summer of 1997 by President Parr-Johnston, “seeking major directions in human knowledge and endeavour, and as a general means to achieve renewal of the organization, programs, technology and partnerships.” Both alumni and alumnae played an active role in the numerous renewal activities—speakers, roundtables, consultations and workshops—held between September 1997 and March 1999, while alumna Judy Budovitch represented the Board of Governors on the widely representative Renewal Task Force.

At the time Jane McGinn-Giberson took office as President of the Association at the AGM in the spring of 1998, the Committee on the Future of the Associated Alumnae made a second report, but with no definitive outcome. At the semi-annual meeting in September of that year, alumna Ruth Henry Dickinson (BEd ’78, DAUS ’95), an Alumni Office staff member, proposed herself as the official liaison between the Association and the office. She further suggested the

group form a booster club to support women athletes and profile outstanding women, and establish a merit award for women athletes. Her offer was warmly received. Marti-Lou Neill (BA '69), who had been very active in the Saint John chapter of the Associated Alumni before moving to Fredericton, and former Association president Nancy Kilburn formed a committee to work with Ms. Henry-Dickinson on the ideas for supporting women's teams. In keeping with this new direction, the Association presented a cake in October to the Varsity Reds women's field hockey team to wish them well at the national championships. The team had won the Atlantic championships for 10 straight years.

A reconfiguration of the women's residence complex consisting of Lady Dunn and Tibbits halls, based on decreasing demand for single-sex accommodation, resulted in the creation of a coed section within the complex. Named in honour of UNB's longest serving Dean of Women, Joy Kidd House was dedicated that fall, though not without some controversy. Some former residents, all alumnae of course, felt the change marred the history and traditions of the two pre-existing houses. The Association raised concerns about appropriate contact with Joy Kidd's family and were pleased when her daughter, Carolyn Finlay, came from Vancouver to participate in the dedication ceremony in October 1998.

Chancellor Emerita Lady Aitken returned to Fredericton that fall to unveil her official portrait in the Chancellor's Room of the Wu Conference Centre. The Association hosted a tea for her, at which she was presented with a painting by former Association president Mary Hashey.

No sooner did it seem that the Association had stabilized its vision for the future and embarked on a more proactive trajectory led by its young president, Jane McGinn-Giberson, than problems arose once again with the Maggie Jean Chestnut House. In February 1999, the fire marshal ordered the immediate closure of the residence because of wiring problems. Forty-six students were relocated to the Wandlyn Motel, where the Alumnae met with them in a show of solidarity.

Others signed cards of support for the students. Most important, Jane McGinn-Giberson and Linda Dashwood were named as the Association's representatives to a University committee studying the once-again uncertain future of Maggie Jean, which was due to celebrate the 50th anniversary of its acquisition by the Alumnae in September.

The committee deliberated over the summer and, by the time of the semi-annual meeting on October 30, 1999, a reprieve was issued. Maggie Jean Chestnut House would become the home of Renaissance College, a new undergraduate leadership program for which the University had received a grant of \$1.875 million from the McConnell Family Foundation. A campaign to raise \$500,000 for the upgrading and renovation of Maggie Jean, led by alumna and Board of Governors member Nancy McFadyen (BA '67, DLitt '06) was launched soon after.

The decade ended on a high note, with the appointment of Jane McGinn-Giberson, the first woman to serve in the new position of Director of Student Affairs and Services, replacing the position of Dean of Students. Ms. McGinn-Giberson joined the now six female deans, including alumna Jane Fritz (MScCS '82) in Computer Science, in the senior administration of the University. The status of women at UNB had made substantial progress during the decade.

CHAPTER 3: A CENTURY OF SERVICE

The turn of the century and the start of a new millennium were also the beginning of the Association's tenth decade of service to the University. Buoyed by the "renaissance" of Maggie Jean Chestnut House and a renewed sense of purpose, in February 2000 the Alumnae joined the Associated Alumni in celebrating a gift of \$1 million from alumnus Andy Devereaux (BScEE '71, BA '73, DLitt '98). The purpose of the gift, to be spent over a period of years, was "to energize UNB's alumni, to make them feel they have the power to participate in the life of the university. When you energize the constituency, you empower the individual," he explained.

Marti-Lou Neill assumed the presidency of the Alumnae Association at the spring AGM in 2000. She came into the role after being "commandeered" to serve as first vice-president the previous year. She also succeeded Barbara Baird as the Alumnae representative on the Board of Governors in 1999. Hers was to be an eventful term of office. Andy Devereaux's money was to be used for special projects and new initiatives, and the Alumnae had every confidence it would be used for activities of interest to its members. A strategic planning process was underway within the Alumni Association in which the alumnae members of the Alumni Council were taking part. It would result later that year in a major action plan, *Energized and Involved*, which included five Key Results Areas (KRAs): advice, advocacy,

fund raising, student recruitment and school-to-work transitions—all things in which the Alumnae could and would play a meaningful role.

Marking the Millennium



Alumnae revive the traditional closing kickline at the Red 'n' Black Revue, highlight of Homecoming 2000.

In the meantime, the two associations were gearing up for Homecoming 2000, a millennial celebration intended to bring back to the Fredericton campus as many alumni and alumnae as possible. Taking place over the weekend of August 4 to 6, the mega-event drew an estimated 3,000 graduates back “home” and involved some 250 volunteers. The Alumnae hosted a welcoming table with memorabilia and its pewter products for sale, but its most visible and memorable contribution to the festivities was the Alumnae Kickline in the alumni edition of the Red ‘n’ Black Revue at the Aitken Centre. The dancers, led by Alumnae president Marti-Lou Neill and choreographed by the inimitable Sheila Roberts--who also participated--included Iris Bliss (BSc '57, BEd '59), Kathie

Sullivan Brien (BBA '67), Marilyn French Caldwell (BPE '62), Debbie Calvin (BPE '94), Mavis Cater (BA '61), Margaret Collis (BA '53), Jill Davies (BPE '74), Eleanor Donaldson (BA '50), Carole Eldridge (BA '70), Jane Burns Lewis (BA '54, Bed '57), Carol Ashfield Loughrey, Linda Rejall Lutzuk (BPE '67), Brenda Levison Martin (BBA '79), Sadie Miller, Beverly Morell (BPE '67), Bonnie Price Murray (BA '78), Patsy Estey Perlberg (BSc '70), Barbara Roberts (BA '69), Gail Evans Spencer (BT '67), Karen Hine Townsend (BA '74), Peggy Colpitts Wightman (BSc '59), and Ann Langstroth Willoughby (BN '69).

The renovation and refurbishing of Maggie Jean Chestnut House as a site for Renaissance College brought to light the fact that many of the objects donated or provided to the former women's residence by the Alumnae had disappeared. While serving as Alumnae president, Jane McGinn-Giberson and Alumni Office liaison Ruth Henry-Dickinson had recovered the silver services belonging to Maggie Jean and Lady Dunn Hall. The one from Maggie Jean was put on display in the lounge of the Alumni Memorial Building, where silver flatware was also stored. *Rural Scene*, a painting by L. Pernet which had been donated by the Baird family in 1994, was sent for restoration with the intention of re-hanging it over the fireplace in the Renaissance College common room. (It is now in the UNB Art Centre vault.) Two watercolours by Vi Gillett, donated to the Maggie Jean Chestnut House by Norman Fraser in the 1950s, were also located within the University's art collection.

In October 2000, Ms. Neill was one of several dignitaries who presided over the official re-opening of Maggie Jean Chestnut House as Renaissance College. She presented the first instalment of the Association's \$6,000 pledge to the refurbishment of the building, noting, "The Associated Alumnae maintains a genuine interest in this wonderful building and fully intends to continue its relationship with this residence."

A Renewed Commitment to UNB

The University's Renewal Process came to an official conclusion in December 2000 with the release of a report, *Renewal Directions: 2000 and Beyond*, containing eight "vision elements" and a long list of strategic objectives that included greater alumni involvement "to ensure UNB students truly become our partners for life." This was followed almost immediately by the release of Energized and Involved and a Proclamation of Renewed Commitment presented to the University by Alumni president Kevin Ratcliff (BBA '82) at a ceremony on January 19, 2001.

Signed by the members of the Alumni Council executive and Ms. Neill on behalf of the Associated Alumnae, the proclamation stated, "Therefore, we the undersigned, on behalf of the University's 45,000 alumni and thousands of other friends and supporters, do hereby re-affirm our commitment to the University of New Brunswick. We pledge our constant involvement and considerable energies to our alma mater. We vouchsafe to maintain and increase the intellectual, spiritual and economic resources that enable this institution to be a powerful agent for public good, a creator of knowledge and a wellspring of innovation."

Around this time the Association's pewter project came to an end. It had been started in 1977 with a loan of \$950 and over the ensuing 23 years had raised more than \$6,000, most of which had been used to fund a continuing education scholarship for a part-time woman student. Thelma Kolding had performed yeoman service for nearly two decades as chairperson of the project, tirelessly promoting sales of the crested porringers, pins, pendants and letter openers.

By the time of the 2001 AGM in June, Bob Skillen, who had served as the executive director of Alumni Affairs for 11 years, had announced his intention to take a position in the private sector and the search for his successor was underway. Elizabeth Parr-Johnston had also decided she would retire at the end of her term in July 2002 and the complex process to find her successor was starting to gear up.

The seven-member Joint Nominating Committee for the Office of President had three women members: alumna and dean of Computer Science Jane Fritz, alumna and Board of Governors member Sandra Irving (BA '95), and professor of History Gillian Thompson, who had previously chaired the President's Advisory Committee on the Status of Women and helped to found the Women's Studies Program.

It would be many months before the new president and vice-chancellor was identified, but by the fall alumnus Mark Hazlett (BPE '87, MPE '89) had been appointed executive director of the Associated Alumni. Mr. Hazlett assumed his role just as the number of graduates reached 50,000, nearly half of whom were female. In fact, over the decade of the 1990s, slightly more women than men, almost 10,000 in total, had graduated from UNB.

In addition to her duties as Alumnae president, Ms. Neill assumed the role of treasurer for the Associated Alumni, giving her a place on the executives of both organizations. She reported to the semi-annual meeting that Associated Alumni president Richard Scott (BBA '74, LLB '76) was including her, as Alumnae president, in many of the special events hosted by the Alumni.

The Alumnae took on the task of persuading the University to install four baby-changing tables in several locations around the campus. The Association paid for one of them, sharing the cost with the Physical Plant Department and the Aitken Centre. That fall the group also lent its support to beautification of the grounds around the Maggie Jean and provided \$800 to the women's ice hockey team, still struggling as a club (rather than a varsity) sport. They presented pewter bangles, in red and black bags made by Althea Macaulay, to the members of the UNB women's basketball team who participated in the first Helen Neill Campbell tournament, an event honouring a well-known and athletically talented alumna (BA '34).

Creating a Hospitable Climate

President Parr-Johnston's final months in office were challenging

ones. Six “incidents” that took place on campus between November 1, 2001 and January 15, 2002 in which women were approached, threatened or assaulted by men unknown-to-them prompted the Fredericton Police Department to establish “Project College Hill” to investigate the incidents, which the police believed were connected. The campus community was taken by surprise and accusations were made that UNB had not appropriately alerted students.

On January 30, a group calling itself UNB Students Against Rape and Intimidation (UNBSRI) presented its demands to the administration: improved lighting on campus; no pornography sold in the campus convenience store; zero tolerance for misogynistic, homophobic and racist aggression; installation of accessible indoor and outdoor distress phones; a women’s centre with full-time staff; and an office for Spectrum, an organization that supported students who were gay, lesbian, bisexual, transsexual or questioning their sexual orientation. The deadline for action was February 14, with a rally to be held on February 11. If no action was forthcoming, the group promised a nation-wide boycott of UNB in the fall of 2002.

“It has long been known,” wrote a UNBSRI spokesperson in the February 1, 2002 edition of *The Brunswickan*, “that the UNB campus is not a comfortable place for female students. Lighting is poor, payphones are locked indoors after 11 p.m., residences are shrouded in shadow and circled by woods, the Women’s Studies Program receives a mere \$800 a year in funding, we have no women’s centre or safe queer space and female students are under attack. How can we learn and grow in this hostile environment?... We believe the administration is sincere in its desire to change the climate of misogyny and patriarchy that festers at our school.”

Several meetings between UNBSRI, other concerned students and the administration were held over the next few weeks. The University announced substantial new funding for lighting and other safety upgrades such as emergency phones and surveillance cameras. A safety audit and some campus walkabouts, pinpointing areas of particular concern, were held. Reg Jarrett, Chief of Campus

Security, began a weekly column in *The Brunswickan* called “Campus Watch,” which detailed incidents that had happened in the previous week. (This would be followed up in 2004 with a safety audit professionally conducted by METRAC, the Metropolitan Action Committee on Violence Against Women and Children, and a total expenditure on safety initiatives of \$200,000.)

The issue gradually faded from the general consciousness, and the police quietly dropped their investigation that summer with no suspect(s) having been found. But one very positive outcome was not forgotten: the establishment of a women’s centre on campus.

The Women’s Centre Takes Shape

At the 2002 AGM in June, Kate Whitfield (BScE ’03), the fifth woman to serve as president of the Student Union, gave a presentation on the plans for the Women’s Centre to which the Alumnae had contributed \$700. A proposal, submitted in May to President Parr-Johnston, envisaged a partnership among the Student Union, Graduate Student Association, the Adult Learners, Part-Time Students (ALPS) association and the University, which the administration had accepted. The centre was being constructed in a portion of the Blue Room in the Student Union Building at a cost of \$30,000, paid for by the University. The centre’s board would include representation from the Alumnae and would be responsible for hiring a coordinator who would oversee the day-to-day operations. Ms. Whitfield was confident it would open in the fall and would complement what was already offered on campus, providing information on sexual health, safety and sexual orientation, as well as a safe haven for women and a vehicle to keep women’s issues in the forefront.

The grand opening of the centre took place in February 2003. “The University Women’s Centre is a space and a resource available to all members of the UNB community, particularly the women’s community on campus,” its mission statement read. “The centre will work toward affirming the dignity of all women and empowering them to control their own life choices. We will strive to address

the needs of all women, staff, faculty, and students on campus by offering a variety of supportive services, as well as educational, cultural and social programs.” Joanne Barr, a member of the Campus Ministry, was appointed coordinator. In a show of further support, the University paid half of her salary for the first year.



The Associated Alumnae helped to establish the Women’s Centre which opened in 2003: (Left to right) Charmaine Cadeau, chairperson of the Women’s Centre board; Joanne Barr, co-ordinator of the centre; Kate Whitfield, Student Union president and a member of the board; and Wendy Robbins, a UNBF professor, board member and co-founder of the women’s studies program at UNB.

In the ensuing decade, the Women’s Centre would have its struggles with staffing, funding and recruiting volunteers, but the Alumnae remained steadfast supporters, providing both annual grants and dedicated board members, including Margie Gregg (BA ’92), Bonnie Murray and Barbara Elliott (BT ’78, BEd ’81).

New Presidents Take Office; Women Make Gains

In the meantime, in June 2002, new presidents of both the University and the Alumnae Association had taken office. Alumnus John McLaughlin (BScSE ’69, MScSE ’71) became UNB’s 17th President and Vice-Chancellor. In an early interview with The Alumni News, Dr. McLaughlin stated, “Our relationship with our alumni

can be a significant comparative advantage. As UNB enhances its community relationships, the alumni will be critical in helping us stitch together these ties. The role of alumni goes far, far beyond fund raising and student recruitment. We plan to enlist the help of our 50,000 members in all the key results areas—advice, advocacy, fund-raising, student recruitment and school-to-work transitions—outlined in the Associated Alumni’s strategic plan.”

Dr. McLaughlin brought his own “comparative advantage” to the office. For the seven years he was president, his wife, alumna Maggie McLaughlin (BA ’72, BEd ’73), was a staunch supporter of the Alumnae, hosting various events and acting as an ambassador to the larger community.

Margie Gregg assumed leadership of the Association in 2002. Ms. Gregg had been a member of the Wimmin’s Collective while a student and considered herself a “lifelong feminist.” Like her predecessors, Ms. Gregg was aware of the organization’s need to engage with younger women, about whom former UNB dean and chair of the New Brunswick Advisory Council on the Status of Women, Mary Lou Stirling, had astutely observed in an interview, “Younger women today who haven’t been through second wave feminism seem to think that things are already fair. They’re already juggling work, community, and family and see volunteering as something that requires more nurturing. They don’t see the need for making commitments to social action on issues of women’s equality.”

The fall of 2002 saw a massive communications campaign launched by the University. Making a Significant Difference included print and television advertising that featured alumni and alumnae who represented UNB’s impact on the province and beyond. Among the women included were teacher Sharon McCracken (BEd ’91); business woman Susan Harley (BBA ’82, MBA ’93); and health care professional Mary Ellen McKinney (BBA ’77, BN ’00). The campaign had a substantial reach, with major media coverage, including a supplement in the daily newspapers; a national speaking

tour by President McLaughlin; and an alumni component called Proudly UNB which encouraged graduates to become more involved with the University and provided an information kit to assist them in becoming more active.

Women continued to make gains within the University in 2003: educator Carey Ryan became the fifth woman to serve as president of the Associated Alumni and Kathryn Hamer, Dean of Arts at Mount Allison University, was appointed Vice-President Saint John, the second woman to hold that executive post. In a presentation to the Alumnae in September 2003, Gwen Davies, who had been appointed Dean of Graduate Studies in 2000, documented a growing role for women in the graduate school. Fifty percent of the University's nearly 1,200 graduate students were women. Women comprised 44 per cent of the full-time graduate students and 65 per cent of those attending part-time. Women were represented in virtually every discipline, from English to Engineering; were conducting interesting and valuable research; and were winning national awards.

Fredrik S. Eaton was succeeded as UNB's chancellor by Richard J. Currie (Class of 1960, LLD '87), an internationally celebrated businessman, in May 2003. At his installation, Dr. Currie issued a challenge: "To the people of New Brunswick, I would say, 'This is your university.' If you, and in particular your leaders in all fields, don't support it and your president, then nobody else in the rest of Canada or anywhere else will support it." A former Beaverbrook Scholar, Dr. Currie marked his appointment by establishing UNB's largest renewable entrance scholarships, initially named in honour of his grandmothers, Ida Mae Blake and Jannet Kirkpatrick. (They later became known as the Richard J. Currie Scholarships.)

The Association Strives for New Meaning

In an effort to once again redefine the Alumnae mission, alumna Carol Loughrey, who among her many skills was an expert in the Open Space Technology meeting method, was enlisted in the fall of 2003 to facilitate a discussion about the future. Several sessions

were held with members, though sparse attendance prompted Mrs. Loughrey to question whether the very small numbers of women with “passion and time for the organization” made continuing in the present form an option. In the end, the mission statement, goals and objectives of the organization were revised and it was agreed the executive would move forward with an “enhanced status quo,” identifying new activities that could be taken on. Once again, the possibility of a merger with the Associated Alumni was rejected.

One particularly beneficial outcome of this exercise was Mrs. Loughrey’s continuing involvement with the group thereafter, becoming a member of the executive in 2006.

Bonnie Murray (BA ’78) took over the Association’s presidency at the AGM in 2004. With her strong background in communications, Mrs. Murray undertook the responsibility of pursuing a presence for the Alumnae on the UNB website, a task that ultimately took nearly the rest of the decade to achieve. (See <http://www.unb.ca/alumni/aboutus/alumnae.html>.) During her term the Association responded favourably to a request from the University’s financial aid officer, agreeing to have its student loan funds awarded as non-repayable childcare bursaries instead, with one allocated to a student on the Saint John campus.

A new and very ambitious fund raising campaign, Forging Our Futures, was getting underway and Mark Hazlett, executive director of the Associated Alumni, was seconded to co-manage the effort. Kathy MacFarlane had been hired as Associate Director of the Alumni and also served as the liaison to the Alumnae for the duration of the campaign.

For many years the Association had held an organizational membership in the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) and actively participated in the local chapter, with an alumna assigned as the official liaison between the Alumnae and the CFUW. When Engineering alumnus Ottis Logue (BScCE ’46, MScCE ’54, DSc ’96) died in 2004, leaving a bequest to the CFUW, the group

donated the money to the University to establish the Marjorie Logue Scholarship in memory of his wife, the UNB alumna (BSc '41, MSc '46) who had begun the legendary CFUW book sale in 1964. In keeping with the mission of the two organizations, the scholarship was designated to female students from New Brunswick.

A heritage donation from Phyllis Batt (BSc '38) was one of the focal points of the AGM in 2005. A red tablecloth she had embroidered in 1937-38 with the crests of all the faculties and the signatures of eight professors and 66 students was received with much enthusiasm. Preparations were made to display it prominently in the Alumni Memorial Building with other Association memorabilia. A short biography of each of the signatories was prepared by Althea Macaulay.

The Association Takes a Stand

By the time Catherine Sutherland (BA '78, BBA '94) succeeded to the presidency of the Association in 2006, full-time women undergraduates represented the majority on both campuses: 60 per cent in Saint John and just over 50 per cent in Fredericton. Part-time undergraduate women outnumbered men almost two-to-one on both campuses. And, while men continued to outnumber women as full-time students on the graduate level, the participation of women in Master's and PhD programs on a part-time basis continued to grow. Though overall enrolment declined throughout the decade, the number of women students remained strong.

For women faculty, as well, the proportion would increase over the decade, from 34 per cent in 2000 to 41 per cent in 2010. Female staff, the majority of whom held support positions in offices across the campuses, continued to represent about 55 per cent of the non-academic workforce.

Mrs. Sutherland's term was dominated by two high-profile issues, the first being the 2007 report of the provincial government's Commission on Post-Secondary Education, *Advantage New Brunswick*, by former

Vice-President Saint John, Rick Miner, and Jacques l'Écuyer, a consultant from Quebec. Their controversial recommendation that the Saint John campus (as well as two campuses of Université de Moncton) become a polytechnical institution sparked protests in the streets and a spirited letter-writing campaign by alumni and alumnae, as well as faculty, staff, students and members of the community. Some held the view that the curriculum of a polytechnic would be detrimental to the interests of women students with its focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics. As president of the Alumnae, Mrs. Sutherland participated in every protest that took place in Saint John. Within a month, the government agreed to set aside the recommendation and maintain the Saint John campus as a university.

The second issue came in the spring of 2008 with the reorganization of the varsity teams in Fredericton. In an effort to consolidate strength and maximize the impact of limited resources, women's hockey, which had achieved varsity status only six years earlier, was returned to club status along with five other teams: men's and women's wrestling, men's and women's cross country and men's swimming. Reaction to the decision was quick and vehement. A "Support Women's Hockey" Facebook page attracted 1,758 members, and former Varsity Reds hockey player Darryl Boyce, by then a member of the Toronto Maple Leafs, wrote to *The Brunswickan*: "If you take the women's hockey team away from UNB, you're taking away dreams, you're taking away fun and you're taking away an exciting product from the fans." Along with many others, Mrs. Sutherland both wrote to and met with President John McLaughlin in an effort to have women's hockey reinstated, but to no avail.

Limited resources forced the Association to make its own tough decision during that period: the group voted to drop its membership in the Canadian Federation of University Women and allocate the \$500 membership fee to other purposes. Individual alumnae would, of course, be able to participate in CFUW as members, but the organizations would no longer be affiliated.

Before stepping down, Mrs. Sutherland led a group, including Mardi Cockburn, Carol Loughrey and Jane McGinn-Giberson, who made a representation to the Commission on Inter-Campus Relations, Funding and Governance, co-chaired by vice-presidents emeriti Tom Condon and Jim O’Sullivan (BBA ’59). They reinforced the importance of maintaining the Association’s two seats on the Board of Governors. It was effective: no change was recommended.

Mary Ellen McKinney, who had been among the featured alumnae in the Making a Significant Difference Campaign, became Alumnae president at the AGM in 2008. Though she had returned to UNB as a mature student to take a BN, her background in business provided her with the skills to run an efficient organization and to lead the Association through the first half of its centenary in 2010, celebrated in conjunction with the University’s 225th anniversary.

In the fall of 2008, John McLaughlin announced his intention to retire the following summer and alumni and alumnae were encouraged to provide their views on the qualities of the next president. Geraldine McPhee (BT ’71, BA ’72); Barbara Elliott; Jane McGinn-Giberson and Carol Loughrey wrote to David Stevenson (BBA ’68), chair of the Board of Governors, identifying, “...support and fairness for women. The number of women in engineering is a significant indicator (one of several) of how women are doing generally at UNB. We used to be at the top in this area. We no longer are. Will the new president seek to improve the experience for women at UNB or will the new president say what is so often heard today (but which the stats do not support) that everything is fine for women now, no further work is needed, equality has been achieved? Axing the women’s hockey team WAS and IS a gender issue. When money is tight, women suffer first.”

They also noted the need to diversify the student body, address the retirement of large numbers of baby boom professors, foster a customer focus, and cooperate with other institutions, especially STU. “Support for diversity in all roles in the university [is critical],” they noted. “Women in leadership positions are particularly important given the dramatic shift in overall numbers of female versus male students.”

The seven-member Joint Nominating Committee for the Office of President included three women: Roxanne Fairweather, vice-chair of the Board of Governors, chief operating officer at Innovatia and vice-president of Bell Aliant; Cathie Hurley (BBA '77, MBA '00), professor of Business at UNB Saint John; and Stacey Wilson-Forsberg (PhD '10), doctoral student and elected member of the Board. Their unanimous recommendation, announced in February 2009, was Eddy Campbell, who had been acting president of Memorial University since January 2008.

Preparing for the Centenary

Anniversaries abounded in 2008: the 100th of Forestry and Environmental Management, the 50th of Nursing and the 40th of Computer Science. In preparation for the Association's own special milestone, early in 2009 Mardi Cockburn and Barb Elliott were appointed co-chairs of the 100th anniversary committee and planning began immediately. Volunteers included Janet Gallagher (BBA '81, MBA '00), Carol Loughrey, Karen Love (BT '78, BEd '80, MEd '83), Jane McGinn-Giberson, Alice McGinty (BA '79), Mary Ellen McKinney, Sadie Miller, Diana Moore (BA '76, MA '80), Marti-Lou Neill, Brenda Sansom (BEd '90, MEd '01) and Karen Taylor (BA '72, MPA '88), with Special Events Coordinator Barb MacMullin (BPE '74) supporting their efforts on behalf of the Alumni Office. UNB Executive-in Residence Nora Kelly also participated. Early on, a special bookmark was printed and widely distributed to publicize the upcoming anniversary.

As the Association made plans for a busy centennial year in 2010, another changing of the guard took place. Mark Hazlett, executive director of the Associated Alumni since 2001, stepped down to become the head of the Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education. His successor, appointed in March 2009, was alumnus Robb Parker (BA '90), who had previously managed UNB's international recruitment program. With his backing, the Alumnae were granted \$20,000 by the Associated Alumni council to fund their centennial activities. The Alumnae also received \$5,000 from the

Women's Issues Branch of the provincial government for a speakers series.

The 2009 annual general meeting in May marked an eventful point in the life of the Association. Revised by-laws were presented by first vice-president Carol Loughrey. Major changes included setting term limits for councillors, the designation of honorary alumnae, the creation of a Council of Advisors comprising past presidents and a reduction in the quorum for meetings from 15 to 12. Long-serving member and former president Althea Macaulay stepped down from the executive after many decades of service. And the group took pleasure in the creation of a new scholarship honouring its esteemed member, Rebecca Watson, by the Bank of Montreal. BMO contributed \$50,000 to endow an award for a female student who excelled in varsity athletics.

In September 2009, Eddie Campbell and his wife Diane arrived in Fredericton, moving into Somerville House on Waterloo Row, a historic property that had once been the residence of Lord Beaverbrook, the home of the UNB Faculty of Law from 1958 to 1968, and the home of the Lieutenant-Governor of the province. Purchased in 2003 by alumna Julia MacLauchlan (BA '77, DLitt '10) and alumnus Warren McKenzie (BScCS '76, DLitt '10), the couple had completely restored the house to its original splendor and donated it in 2009 to UNB as the official residence of the president. In this elegant venue for entertaining, Diane Campbell would prove to be a gracious hostess for several Alumnae events.

A Year of Celebration

After months of planning, the centennial celebrations kicked off on January 15, 2010 with a tea hosted by Lieutenant-Governor Graydon Nicholas (LLB '71) and a special address by former UNB president Elizabeth Parr-Johnston at Government House in Fredericton. A display of photos of the alumnae who founded the Association in 1910 was produced by Diana Moore, a senior staff member at the Provincial Archives.

In an article in *The Daily Gleaner*, first vice-president Carol Loughrey noted, “We have this beautiful silver tea service that has been handed down to us. Teas have just been a part of the whole tradition.

“I think the founders of this association would say isn’t it wonderful that it still exists and it still has a point to it in terms of the issues surrounding women. But I think they would also be very pleased at how women have been integrated in all parts of the university because it just wasn’t happening then,” she added.

In her remarks at the tea, Dr. Parr-Johnston observed, “It is not every organization that can claim 100 successful years of operation and, in particular, very few organizations exist whose mission is clearly women and the role of women in an organization. I salute you.”

The Daily Gleaner proved to be one of the centennial celebration’s greatest supporters, running a profile each month on a distinguished UNB alumna. Guided by suggestions from the Association, journalist Laverne Stewart conducted in-depth interviews with federal judge, Carolyn Layden-Stevenson (MEd ’78, LLB ’84); award-winning athlete and coach Joyce Slipp, (BPE ’72, BA ’74); former Association president and practicing engineer Jane McGinn-Giberson; veterinarian Amy Schneider (BSc ’95); Atlantic Ballet Theatre of Canada CEO Susan Chalmers-Gauvin (BA ’96, DLitt ’12); teacher Heather Neilson (BPE ’72), who would soon become the sixth woman to serve as president of the Associated Alumni; president and CEO of Contract Management Services Janice McKay (BBA ’89); nurse practitioner Stacey Taylor (BN ’99, MN ’09); RCMP officer Tammy Ward (BA ’90); immigrant and Enbridge executive Runu Kumari (MBA ’03); Alumnae centenary co-chair and volunteer extraordinaire Mardi Cockburn; award-winning teacher Carla Kolada (BEd ’94); and lawyer Jayme O’Donnell (BA ’02, LLB ’06).

On March 8, as part of Fredericton’s International Women’s Day observance, the Association had a display at the Delta Hotel and provided gifts for speakers at the event.



The Centennial Committee on the 100th anniversary, April 26, 2010: (Seated, left to right) Catherine Sutherland, Joyce Slipp, Barb Elliott, Mardi Cockburn, Diana Moore, Karen Taylor, Diane Campbell, Alice McGinty. (Standing, left to right) Sadie Miller, Marti-Lou Neill, Barb MacMullin, Janet Gallagher, Carol Loughrey, Brenda Sansom.

The precise anniversary of the Association was marked on April 26, 100 years to the day when the 19 founders gathered at the Charlotte Street School to form the organization. On this date in 2010, the members of the Centennial committee and Association executive, joined by UNB's "first lady" Diane Campbell, held a luncheon at the school (which had become the Charlotte Street Art Centre in 2005) to mark the occasion and reflect on the advances made by women over the previous century.

Several outreach events were held around the province: vice-chair of the UNB Board of Governors Roxanne Fairweather spoke at a highly successful luncheon at the Grand Hall in Saint John for alumnae of the campus in that city on April 30; a reception in Woodstock was held at the historic Connell House on May 7; a gathering in Moncton took place at the home of alumna Aldéa Landry (LLB '71, LLD '02) on June 22; and a reception in St. Andrews was hosted jointly by Barbara Stanley (LLB '78) and Sheila Washburn (BScCE

'59, MScCE '80) on August 21. In each instance, the turnout was strong and the sense of connection among the women present was palpable.

The centennial AGM took place in May and featured Her Honour Beth Nicholas (BA '76, LLB '79), wife of the lieutenant-governor, as speaker. "As women, we face our own continuing struggle for the recognition of our basic rights. The women who founded the UNB Associated Alumnae on April 26, 1910 were visionaries who opened doors for all of us to enjoy the benefits of a higher education," she noted. At this meeting Mary Ellen McKinney was succeeded as president by Carol Loughrey, who began her two-year term at the commencement of the organization's second century.

Activities continued through the fall, which marked the beginning of the University's own 225th anniversary. The Association was represented on stage by first vice-president Karen Taylor at the gala September 23 A Celebration of Canadian Spirit at the Royal Conservatory in Toronto, co-hosted by alumna Anne Murray (BPE '66, DLitt '78). Homecoming featured a panel of women judges—Anne Wooder (LLB '81), Judy Clendening (BN '75, LLB '78), Mary Jane Richards (BA '75, LLB '80) and Kathy Quigg (BA '86, LLB '89)—who discussed the challenges of their profession at the UNB Law School on September 24, and a first-ever women's dance the following day. An Associated Alumnae "pocket park" was opened in front of the new C.C. Jones Student Services Centre and executive director of student affairs and services Anne Forrestall (MA '84) spoke at the semi-annual meeting on October 28. And a panel discussion entitled "Secrets for Success: Celebrating UNB Women" was held in Saint John on November 26 featuring Shilo Boucher (BBA '00), COO of the Saint John YMCA-YWCA; psychiatrist Pamela Forsythe (BA '74), chair of Mindcare; Sussex business woman Alaina Lockhart (BBA '98); and Susan Ryan (BScEE '95), manager of enterprise design for Bell Aliant.

Associated Alumni president Larry Hachey (BBA '87) extolled the group's activities in his Fall 2010 *Alumni News* column, "Congratulations to the Alumnae as they host a series of events this year in recognition of their tremendous contributions and significant anniversary."

The centennial celebrations culminated as they began: with a tea at Government House co-hosted by His Honour Graydon Nicholas and Her Honour Beth Nicholas on December 28. "In anticipation of the next 100 years," read the invitation, "please invite a potential young alumna as your guest." The response to this request was enthusiastic, with many young women accompanying their alumnae mothers, aunts, mentors and friends.



The Centennial Scholarship Luncheon held at the home of the UNB President:
(Left to right) Dorothy McDade, Ellie McGinley, Catherine Sutherland, Mary Ellen McKinney, Althea Macaulay and Lucy Hubbard.

Epilogue

The centennial celebrations were a tour de force for the Associated Alumnae, attracting new members to the organization and reaching back to an earlier time when the group had a presence around

the province. Reflecting on the year's activities, president Carol Loughrey commented, "I have been amazed at the enthusiasm with which women in each of the communities have embraced the events we helped organize. We are clearly meeting a need, and in spite of a very tight budget we have had rave reviews in each community."



Through the efforts of the Associated Alumnae, a new residence on the Fredericton campus was named in honour of Elizabeth Parr-Johnston, UNB's first woman president.

But the Association's festivities were not quite over. On September 29, 2011 the University acted on a proposal brought forward by the Alumnae in 2010: to name the "new" apartment-style residence on the Fredericton campus in honour of Elizabeth Parr-Johnston, UNB's first (and only) female president and vice-chancellor. Planned and built during Dr. Parr-Johnston's term in response to community concerns about adequate housing for students, the residence stands just above the Joy Kidd-Lady Dunn-Tibbits residence, a fitting complement to the cluster of buildings commemorating the role of women in the life of UNB.

"Having this residence named after me is a huge honour. I'm particularly pleased it's a residence primarily dedicated to graduate students," Dr. Parr-Johnston said. "I firmly believe that my own life wouldn't have gone the way it did if it hadn't been for my graduate

experience. I'm pleased to know that in some way I'm contributing to others having a similar experience through this residence."

The final decade of the Association's first century of service had been especially noteworthy. The number of alumnae was nearing parity: at the end of the decade, 35,424 of UNB's 72,614 living graduates, or 49 per cent, were female.

Between 2000 and 2010, one-third of the prestigious Alumni Awards of Honour were presented to women. Three had served the Alumnae Association in an executive capacity--Barbara Baird, Linda Dashwood, Marti-Lou Neill—while the others had been outstanding volunteers for the Associated Alumni and the University: Susan Reiter (BA '74, BEd '75), Josephine Robinson (BA '42), Nancy McFadyen, Lynn Fraser Hruczkowski (BA '82), Sally McAllister, Dorothy McDade (BSc '57), Christine Coldwell (BA '75, BEd '76), Julia MacLauchlan and Kathryn McCain (BA '72).

Thirty-one honorary degrees (30 per cent) had been awarded to women over the course of the decade, many of them nominated by the Association. Among those recognized were former UNB president Elizabeth Parr-Johnston and a number of alumnae: founder of the children's literature collection Eileen Wallace, politician and business woman Aldéa Landry, judge Margaret Larlee (LLB '74), judge Patricia Cumming (BBA '71, LLB '73), former Board of Governors member Nancy McFadyen, philanthropist Sandra Irving (BA '95), Microsoft executive and UNB benefactor Julia MacLauchlan (jointly with her husband Warren McKenzie) and internist Dorothy McDade. In all, 84 honorary degrees (28 per cent) were presented to women between 1980 and 2010, two-and-a-half times the number awarded between 1939, when Mary Kingsley Tibbits was recognized, and 1979.

And the work of the Association goes on.

A lasting legacy of the centennial celebrations is the spring luncheon in Saint John, which has become an annual event. A new approach

to awarding scholarships has been adopted, with larger, more meaningful awards going to fewer students. An alarming decline over the past few years in the number of women holding leadership roles in the administration has spurred association members to lobby the University to reverse the trend.

The Association continues to evaluate its role and relevance under the leadership of organizational development specialist Karen Taylor, chair of the planning committee, who succeeded Carol Loughrey as president in 2012. The recently revised goals of the organization, intended to inform the Association's second century of service, are:

- To promote and provide opportunities and networking amongst UNB women graduates and students.
- To assist women students financially.
- To provide a woman's perspective and advocate for women at the Board of Governors and in other decision-making environments.
- To contribute to the advancement of the University of New Brunswick.

These would be ambitious goals for any organization, but for a relatively small and modestly funded group, they are lofty indeed. That they have been met, and met well, for more than 100 years is a triumph of dedication and effort by "those certain women," past and present.

PHOTO CREDITS

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1. Alumnae – Executive University of New Brunswick Public Relations Department Photograph Collection, Series 2, Sub-series 1, File 13, Item 3.
2. Installation of Lady Aitken as chancellor, May 1982 Joe Stone and Son Ltd. fonds, UA RG 340, Series 16, File 13527
3. Launch of Those Certain Women, October 1982 University of New Brunswick Public Relations Department Photograph Collection, Series 2, Sub-series 1, File 133, Item 2a - Photo by Steve Smith.
4. Mary K. Tibbits commemorative poster, celebrating the centenary of her admission, 1986 University of New Brunswick Public Relations Department Photograph Collection, Series 2, Sub-series 4, File 1006, Item 1 - Photo by Joy Cummings-Dickinson.
5. Founding of the Women’s Studies Program, 1986 University of New Brunswick Public Relations Department Photograph Collection, Series 2, Sub-series 4, File 1007, Item 1.
6. 100th Anniversary of MKT’s graduation University of New Brunswick Public Relations Department Photograph Collection, Series 2, Sub-series 4, File 897, Item 3 - Photo by Linda Kneebone.
7. Elizabeth Parr-Johnston being installed as the first woman President, 1996 University of New Brunswick Public Relations Department Photograph Collection, Series 2, Sub-series 1, File 229, Item 1 - Photo by Joy Cummings.
8. Opening of the Women’s Centre, SUB, February 2003 University of New Brunswick Public Relations Department Photograph Collection, Series 2, Sub-series 4, File 1005, Item 1 - Photo by Joy Cummings.

The following images courtesy of the Media Production Unit, Centre for Enhanced Teaching and Learning:

Homecoming 2000 Kickline.

Elizabeth Parr-Johnston Residence.

The following images courtesy of Barb Elliott, Associated Alumnae Centennial Committee:

100th anniversary of the founding of the Associated Alumnae, April 26, 2010.

Centennial Scholarship Luncheon.

