



Spring 2024



A message from our president, Pat Weaver...

As my year as UWC President ends, I reflect on how much this organization means to me. I'm honored to have served as President, alongside the exceptional board members. Personally, I'm also thankful for the many friends I've made among so many outstanding women.

I want to acknowledge our board members for their tireless efforts, which are described in greater detail in this newsletter. JoLaine Teyssier and Cathie Kenny (Program VP/AVP) organized field trips, guest speakers, and the upcoming Spring Luncheon and Business Meeting. Linda Wray, Jane Stanton, and Bev Mullen (Communications VP/AVP, Website Editor, Facebook Editor, and Newsletter Editor) created and distributed newsletters, membership directories, emails, and social media posts about many of these events. Pat Leech and Kate May (IG VP/AVP), along with IG leaders, monitored and added to our slate of IG offerings. Lucy Auger and Betty Parks (Membership VP/AVP) worked to increase our membership to over 400 by meeting with and encouraging women to join UWC. Betz Hanley kept track of discussions and votes taken in monthly board meetings and the annual business meeting. Sue Stephenson kept our financial records in exceptional shape. Development Director Casey Goodall handled scholarship activities. Finally, both Ingrid Blood, immediate Past President, and Joanne Bennett, President-Elect, guided me so that my term year ran smoothly.

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I hope to be as much help to Joanne during her UWC Presidency as she was to me during mine.

Three final comments before I close. First, I want to acknowledge and appreciate the important contributions of our former UWC President and Scholarship VP, Charlene Harrison, who suffered a major stroke last fall and is still recuperating. We continue to send our warmest thoughts to her, along with our profound thanks for her dedication in ensuring the UWC provides financial support to female Penn State students and graduating State High School Senior students who enroll at Penn State after graduation.

Second, I want to thank Dr. Neeli Bendapudi, our honorary President, for speaking to us at our Fall Reception, with hopes that she can rejoin us at our Spring Luncheon and Business Meeting on May 2. Finally, at that meeting we will also vote on recommended changes to our bylaws and our board nominees for next year. Please consider the information about both included in this newsletter, provided as part of our attempt to improve the functioning of the UWC, and let me know if you have questions. I look forward to seeing you all that day and at Interest Group gatherings in the meantime! Thank you again for the privilege of serving as your President.

Pat



Save the Dates

- **New York City Trip:** April 16-17, 2024. See page 3 for current trip news and check <https://sites.psu.edu/psuuwc/spring-events/> for updates.
- **Antiques Study Group Trip:** May 1, 2024. Bus trip to the Star Barn at Snow Gables Estate in Elizabethtown, PA. For details and reservation form, go to <https://sites.psu.edu/psuuwc/interest-group-trips/>
- **The Annual Spring Luncheon and Election of Board Members:** Thursday, May 2, 2024, at The Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center. See page 23 for details and a reservation form.

In Our Thoughts

Lynn Abramson
Jean Aron
Ingrid Blood
Ellen Coffman
Genevieve Crowley

Lurene Frantz
Marilyn Furry
Charlene Harrison
Rose Marboe
Maxine Millar

Lalita Patil
Libby Taylor
Sally Tucker
Cindy Van Druff

Remembering Maxine Millar (1936-2024)



Maxine Millar, former President of the University Women's Club, passed away on Sunday, February 24, 2024, surrounded by her family. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Craig, in 2021, and daughter Lee Ann Marshall in 2017; and is survived by their sons Bill (and son-in-law Mark Speight) and Alex; and four grandchildren Andrew, Madeline, Sophie, and Max.

Maxine graduated from the University of North Dakota with BS and MS degrees in physical education and married her college sweetheart Craig in 1958. They and their three children moved to State College in 1972, when Craig took a job in Student Affairs/Student Services at Penn State University, culminating in his Old Main role as Associate Vice President of Student Affairs. In addition to her decades-long global travel adventures and leadership in the UWC—as both member and President—Max (as she was known by her friends) was an accomplished skier, tennis player, tour guide, gardener, and cook, among many other activities she embraced, both within and outside the UWC. She is also fondly remembered by UWC members as an avid bus trip participant, as well as singles and doubles racquetball champion who beat nearly all comers, men and women alike. Her friends and family are forever grateful for her life as a legacy of love and laughter, always learning and caring for those around her.

Craig and Maxine were also known for their student advocacy, which led them to endow the Craig & Maxine Millar Award to honor deserving undergraduate students at Penn State for their effective and meaningful leadership in improving student life. Contributions to the award fund would serve as a testament to their impressive contributions to Penn State and beyond:

<https://secure.ddar.psu.edu/s/1218/2014/index.aspx?sid=1218&gid=1&pgid=658&cid=2321&dids=13982&bledit=1>

New York City, here we come!

Plans for the annual trip to New York City April 16-17 have been finalized. We will tour the new Gilder Center at the Museum of Natural History <https://www.amnh.org/exhibitions/permanent/gilder-center>, followed by dinner at Bobby Van's and the evening performance of *Juliet*. The group will stay at the Kimberly Hotel, one of the Best 15 Hotels in New York City. On day 2, we include optional activities: the New York Historical Society's exhibition titled "Women's Work"

(<https://www.nyhistory.org/exhibitions/womens-work>) and the new-to-Broadway matinee of *Water for Elephants* before the group heads home. All seats are booked; to be added to the wait list in case an opening occurs, contact Cindy Hall or Lisa Smith.



NOTICE: PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENTS AND VOTE

The Bylaws Committee (Pat Weaver, Betz Hanley, Janice Keay, JoLaine Teyssier, Jeanne Weber, Betty Parks, and Pat Williams) has proposed amendments to the Bylaws which have been accepted by the Board and will be put to a vote at our Annual Spring Luncheon and Business Meeting on May 2, 2024.

The proposed changes focus on the membership year, a new honorary membership category, a new board position of Assistant Treasurer, and the titles and responsibilities for members who handle the club's communications, as follows:

(1) Currently, the membership year is September 1 to August 31; and the fiscal year is July 1 to June 30. We recommend matching the membership year to the fiscal year to make accounting easier.

(2) In the past, club dues were the same for all except for honorary members. We recommend adding a new category of honorary members to recognize and celebrate past UWC presidents who reach the age of 90 years before or during the upcoming membership year. These women may continue to participate in the organization without paying annual dues.

(3) We recommend adding the Assistant Treasurer position to work with the Treasurer as needed and with the Scholarship Vice President on the receipt and processing of payments to our endowed scholarship fund. This will ensure that all contributions are recorded and deposited promptly and efficiently.

The current Board has recommended and voted affirmative to the following amendment:

(1) The job of communicating with both membership and the wider community has become more complex and time-consuming in recent years. To enhance and streamline our ability to communicate with both groups, we recommend splitting the job into two categories: (a) Vice President and Assistant Vice President for Internal Communications, to include membership emails and newsletter; and (b) Vice President and Assistant Vice President for External Communications, to include website and media.

To help you understand the recommended changes and what you will be voting on at the Spring Luncheon and Business Meeting on May 2, 2024, please read and consider the proposed Amendments and the Constitution and Bylaws (with changes highlighted in red).

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the President and President-Elect before May 2 to allow sufficient time to fully address your concerns. Your views are important to us!

Constitution and Bylaws

(to be voted on by Membership, Spring Business Meeting, May 2, 2024)

The name of this organization shall be "The University Women's Club of The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania." The familiar name is The Penn State University Women's Club. Throughout this document, "The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania" and "The University Women's Club of The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania" will be referred to as "the University" and "the Club," respectively. It should be assumed that all mention of "The Pennsylvania State University" or "the University" refers specifically to the University Park campus.

The Mission of the Club shall be to promote fellowship among members; to provide opportunities for participation in social, cultural and intellectual activities; and to provide financial assistance to students of The Pennsylvania State University, University Park Campus.

Article I. Membership

Section I. Membership Categories

A. Regular, Dues-Paying Members

1. A regular, dues-paying member must meet one of the membership eligibility criteria listed in Section II. A. (Membership Eligibility: Regular Members).
2. The Membership Year is ~~September 1 through August 31~~ **July 1 through June 30**.
3. To remain in good standing, a Regular Member must pay her Annual Club Dues for the upcoming membership year by October 1 of that year. Failure to pay Annual Club Dues by October 1 shall result in the termination of membership and all of its privileges. Interest Group Fees are assessed by each Interest Group, payable directly to that group's coordinator and are in addition to the Annual Club Dues.
4. A Regular Member who has failed to pay her Annual Club Dues by the October 1 deadline may be reinstated upon full payment of those dues but shall be considered to have missed the deadline for inclusion in the Club Directory for that year.
5. A Regular Member in good standing is eligible to participate in all Club events and to enjoy all of the privileges of membership.
6. A Regular Member in her first year of membership enjoys the additional classification of "New Member" to the Club and may be invited to additional New Member programs.

B. Honorary, Non-Dues Paying Members

1. Honorary, non-dues paying members are invited to participate in all Club events and to enjoy all the privileges of membership.
2. See Section II. B. (Honorary Members) for a list of eligibility criteria.

Section II. Membership Eligibility

A. Regular Member

1. Any woman with a personal or family connection to The Pennsylvania State University.
2. Any woman with our common concern for the interests of The Pennsylvania State University, the community, and each other is invited to join, and to participate in any and all activities.

B. Honorary Member

1. A woman who meets one of the following criteria may be invited to join the Club as an Honorary Member:
 - a. She is the University President or the University President's partner;
 - b. She is a Charter Member of the Club;
 - c. She is a member or the partner of a member of the Board of Trustees;
 - d. She is an Emerita Trustee, or the partner of an Emeritus Trustee, of the Board of Trustees;
 - e. She is a past UWC President who reaches the age of 90 before or during the upcoming membership year which ends on June 30. (NEW)

Article II. Officers

Section I. The Honorary President

- A. She shall be the University President or the University President's partner.

Section II. The Executive Board

- A. Composition: The Executive Board shall consist of the following officers:

1. Presidents:

- a. President;
- b. President-elect;
- c. Immediate Past President.

2. Vice Presidents:

- a. Program Vice President;
- b. Program Assistant Vice President;
- c. Membership Vice President;
- d. Membership Assistant Vice President;
- e. Interest Groups Vice President;
- f. Interest Groups Assistant Vice President;
- g. Scholarship Vice President;

- h. Internal Communications Vice President (New)
 - i. Internal Communications Assistant Vice President (New)
 - j. External Communications Vice President (New)
 - k. External Communications Assistant Vice President (New)
3. Treasurers:
- a. Treasurer
 - b. Assistant Treasurer (New)
4. Secretary
5. Appointed Officers:
- a. Development Coordinator
 - ~~b.) Newsletter Editor~~
 - ~~c.) Website Editor~~
6. The President may appoint Special Ad Hoc Committee Chairs to the Executive Board as needed.

B. Terms of Office for Elected and Appointed Positions

1. All nominees, elected officers and appointees to the Executive Board must be members in good standing (as outlined in Article I. Section 1.A.3.).
2. The President is elected to a three-year term, moving from President-elect in her first year of office, to President in her second year and to Immediate Past President in her third year.
3. The following Executive Board Officers are elected to a two-year term, with each officer moving from the assistant position to the full position in the second year of her commitment:

1st Year Position	2nd Year Position
Program Assistant Vice President	Program Vice President
Membership Assistant Vice President	Membership Vice President
Interest Group Assistant Vice President	Interest Group Vice President
Internal Communications Assistant Vice President (NEW)	Internal Communications Vice President (NEW)
External Communications Assistant Vice President (NEW)	External Communications Vice President (NEW)

4. The Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Secretary and Scholarship Vice President are elected to a one-year term and may be reelected.
5. Election of Executive Board Officers occurs during the Annual Spring Luncheon and Business Meeting of the Club and must follow the Election Procedures outlined in Article III. (Election of Officers) of this document.
6. The Development Coordinator is appointed to a one-year term and may be reappointed.

~~6. The Newsletter Editor, Website Editor and Development Coordinator are appointed by the incoming President to a one-year term. They may be reappointed.~~

7. All terms of office begin following the election of the new officers at the Annual Spring Luncheon and Business Meeting.

8. In the event of a midterm vacancy, the Executive Board shall nominate candidates for the position and voting shall take place at the next Executive Board Meeting. Members shall be informed of any midterm changes to the Executive Board through the Club Newsletter.

C. Responsibilities

1. The Executive Board is responsible for the general supervision of the Club between Annual Business Meetings. This includes, but is not limited to, the right to set Annual Club Dues and to disburse funds necessary for the functioning of the Club.

2. The Executive Board shall inform the General Membership through Club Newsletters, electronic media and the Annual Business Meeting of all substantial actions taken by the Board.

3. The Executive Board does not have the power to counteract any action voted upon by the General Membership of the Club.

D. Voting at Executive Board Meetings

1. A simple majority of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum for purposes of voting.

2. A simple majority of votes cast by the Executive Board Officers shall determine the outcome of the vote.

3. Each Executive Board Officer, whether elected or appointed, may cast one vote in any decision before the Board.

4. Members holding Special Ad Hoc Committee Chair positions on the Executive Board are not eligible to vote in decisions before the Executive Board.

E. Executive Board Standing Committees

1. The Finance Committee

a. The Finance Committee shall consist of the Treasurer, the President, the President-elect, the Program Vice President, the Membership Vice President, the Interest Groups Vice President and any others as needed.

b. The Treasurer shall serve as the Committee Chair.

c. The Finance Committee shall submit budget recommendations to the Executive Board for final approval.

2. The Auditing Committee

a. The Auditing Committee shall consist of the newly elected Treasurer, the Membership Vice President, the Immediate Past President, the Scholarship Vice President, and a Member-at-Large selected by the Executive Board.

b. The Immediate Past President shall serve as Committee Chair.

- c. The Auditing Committee shall review the Treasurer's records from the membership year that is ending and submit a written report to the Executive Board.
3. The Program Committee
- a. The Program Committee shall consist of the Program Vice President, the Program Assistant Vice President, the President, the President-elect and the Membership Vice President.
 - b. The Program Vice President shall serve as the Committee Chair.
 - c. The Program Committee shall make program recommendations to the Executive Board for the Fall Reception, the Midwinter Event, the Annual Spring Luncheon and Business Meeting, and other membership events.
4. The Nominating Committee
- a. The Nominating Committee shall consist of the President-elect, Membership Assistant Vice President and three Regular Members appointed by the current President.
 - b. The President-elect shall serve as the Committee Chair.
 - c. The Nominating Committee shall nominate a slate of officers consisting of one nominee for each open elected position:
 - (1) President-elect
 - (2) Program Assistant Vice President
 - (3) Membership Assistant Vice President
 - (4) Interest Groups Assistant Vice President
 - (5) Scholarship Vice President
 - (6) ~~Communications Assistant Vice President~~ Internal Communications Assistant Vice President (NEW)
 - (7) External Communications Assistant Vice President (NEW)
 - (8) Treasurer
 - (9) Assistant Treasurer (NEW)
 - (10) Secretary

Article III. Election of Officers

Section I. Election Procedures

- A. The Nominating Committee shall submit the nomination slate of Executive Board Officers for the upcoming membership year to the membership prior to the Annual Spring Luncheon and Business Meeting by publishing it in the Spring Newsletter and/or via electronic media.
- B. The Nominating Committee shall submit the nomination slate to those members present at the Annual Spring Luncheon and Business Meeting. Following presentation of the nomination slate, the Nominating Committee shall accept nominations from the floor and amend the nomination slate accordingly.
- C. Ten percent of voting-eligible members shall constitute a quorum for the purposes of voting.

D. Voting-eligible members include Honorary Members and Regular Members in good standing (Article I. Section I.A.3.).

E. Voting shall be by voice with a simple majority vote required.

Article IV. Meetings

Section I. Frequency

A. There shall be a minimum of one Annual Business Meeting to which all Members shall be invited.

B. The Executive Board shall determine the number of Club functions held each year beyond the Annual Business Meeting.

C. Any member may call a special meeting of the membership by submitting a written petition to the Executive Board signed by at least twenty-five Honorary or Regular Members.

Section II. Governance

A. The Annual Spring Luncheon and Business Meeting shall include, but not be limited to, the election of Executive Board Officers, the presentation of the minutes of the previous Annual Business Meeting, and a review of the Annual Financial Report.

B. *Robert's Rules of Order Revised* shall govern the Club in all business meetings.

Article V. Constitution and Bylaws Revisions

This Constitution and Bylaws may be revised at any regular meeting of the Club by a two-thirds majority vote of members present, providing notice of the proposed amendments has been sent via mail and/or electronic media to members at least three weeks prior to the meeting.

Article VI. Dissolution of the Club

In the case of dissolution of The University Women's Club of The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania, the funds remaining in the treasury after financial obligations have been met shall be donated to The University Women's Club Endowed Scholarship Fund of The Pennsylvania State University.

NOTE: Again, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact the President and President-Elect before May 2 to allow sufficient time to fully address your concerns. Your views are important to us! We will vote on the changes highlighted in red at the Spring Luncheon and Business Meeting on May 2.

Nominees for the 2024-25 Penn State University Women's Club Executive Board

Joanne Bennett, our nominee for President, has been a member of the University Women's Club since 2005, with a brief interlude as she and her husband moved to Pittsburgh. She's very happy to be back in State College where she can re-engage with old friends and make new ones. Joanne was a former teacher in New Jersey and Pennsylvania and later began a financial career in Massachusetts, which followed her to State College. Currently, her main love is the Woman's Club where she has served on the Board in the past. She is honored to once again be nominated for the position of President and looks forward to a year of collaborating with strong women, while enjoying the intellectual and social engagements that the UWC offers.



Marti Franklin Duffy, the nominee for President-Elect, moved to State College in 2010 when she retired from 20-plus years of teaching graphic design and photography at Lake Wallenpaupack High School in northeastern Pennsylvania. A 1966 Penn State Art History alum, she has been very active with the Centre County PSU alumni chapter. She also volunteers with the alumni association and the admissions department at the University as well as Arts Fest, Coaches versus Cancer, and Pennsylvania Pink Zone. She has enjoyed participating in a number of interest groups within the University Women's Club and looks forward to serving this awesome group.

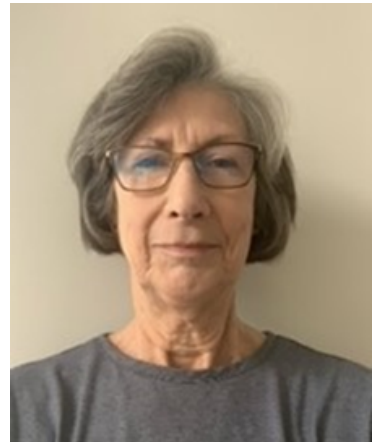


Cathie Kenny is the nominee for Program Vice President. She has lived in State College for 31 years, since her husband retired from his Naval career. After working for SCASD in various education support roles, she retired. She is enjoying new friendships and experiences as she pursues new and established interests. Cathie is the host of the American Mah Jongg special interest group and a member of other UWC interest groups. In her spare time, she likes to visit family in Virginia, read, quilt, travel, take fitness classes, and work on her pickleball skills!



Pat Leech is the nominee for Assistant Program Vice President. She has lived in State College for 33 years. She and her husband are Penn State graduates and have two grown children. She is currently retired from the PA Department of Labor & Industry where she was an auditor/fraud investigator of the Unemployment Compensation System. Pat is filling her retirement years with biking, hiking, travel, gardening, and OLLI courses.

Betty Parks, our nominee for Membership Vice President, moved to this area in the summer of 2021 to be near her daughter and son-in-law and their two children. Prior to her move, she spent 35 years in northern Virginia where she worked in the Human Resources field and raised her two children. Besides spending time with her grandchildren, she enjoys reading, traveling, hiking and kayaking. Betty served on the board this past year as AVP of Membership and enjoyed welcoming new members to our organization.



Jennifer Rittenhouse Pruss, nominee for Membership Assistant Vice President, was born and raised in New Jersey. She received her undergraduate and graduate degrees from Penn State and worked in the field of Molecular Genetics and pharmaceuticals prior to becoming a stay-at-home mom of two children. She moved back to State College three years ago where she is a volunteer in the emergency services field and has served as VP of the SCASD music boosters club. She looks forward to joining the board of UWC.





Jean Hoffman, our nominee for Interest Group VP, relocated to State College 48 years ago from her beloved home in Mountain View, California and retired from Penn State in 2005 after 25 years working in a variety of administrative roles. She attended St. Louis' community college and George Washington University, served on her condo association board for eight years, trained as a Stephen Minister and taught Sunday school. In retirement she pursued long-awaited activities such as genealogy and travel (visiting 49 states and more than 30 national parks, backpacking through the Alpine countries, and journeying solo for four months cross-country for 11,000-miles pulling a 23-foot trailer). Since joining UWC she has made many new friends, especially in Mah Jongg and reading groups, and been on one fabulous bus trip to Broadway.



Michelle Ezray, nominee for Interest Group Assistant VP, is a graduate of Sacramento State University with a BS in Business Administration. Michelle retired from the State of California after a 30-year career in Human Resources. She and her husband Jay moved to State College in 2021. Michelle is the proud mother of two and grandmother of three in State College and Plantation, Florida. She likes to read, cook and eat with good friends, taste wine, travel, attend theater, and play a variety of games, particularly competitive bridge. Michelle joined the UWC in 2022 and has found it a great way to meet interesting people in State College. Michelle has been particularly impressed with the range of interest groups that the UWC offers and is excited to contribute to its ongoing success.

Linda Wray, nominated for VP of Internal Communications, is a military kid and a child of the '60s who lived in many places before Penn State hired her and her husband in 2002. Her two decades in Happy Valley are the longest she has lived anywhere, so she now considers it home. Linda is a gerontologist, just completed her final semester of teaching women's health issues in the Department of Biobehavioral Health last fall, and retires from the university this summer. She has wonderful friends in State College who share her passions for reading and talking about books (mostly fiction), cooking (without attending too closely to recipes), gardening (not always successfully), and traveling to see family and friends despite being uprooted often in her past life! In her upcoming retirement, she is excited to get to know more UWC members as a member of the board and in various Interest Group activities, as well as increasing her advocacy for women's and DEI issues as a member of the AAUW.



Laurel Zydney, our nominee for AVP of Internal

Communications, moved to State College in 2002 with two teenagers and a newborn (all now PSU grads) when her husband joined the Chemical Engineering department. She is grateful that her realtor, then UWC President Mary Lou Bennett, invited her to join UWC. Since then, she has been in many interest groups, including hiking, knitting, book groups, and wine groups. She enjoyed editing the newsletter 2008-2022 and is happy to be working again with some of the people she worked with on Club communications. Outside of the club, her main interests are learning about and sharing all things folk music as a DJ on WPSU Folk Show and hosting occasional house concerts, trying to become a better knitter who actually completes projects, and supporting the importance of public education as a member of AAUW.



Jane Stanton, our past appointed Website and Newsletter Editor and current **nominee for External Communications VP**, is a Penn State alumna and a Past President of the UWC. Having lived and taught in various parts of Pennsylvania, she was happy to move back to State College more than 30 years ago. She taught for 24 years in the State College Area School District and was privileged to work for one year as a halftime instructor in Workforce Ed when Penn State had a grant from the Department of Education to work with pre-student teachers and to edit a newsletter for Family and Consumer teachers. Jane serves on the Penn State Institutional Review Board, the Schlow Library Foundation Board, the Discovery Space Development Board, and is a member of AAUW and the Centre County Alumni Chapter.



Sherry Lonsdale, our nominee for External Communications AVP, settled in the State College area 30 years ago after moving 24 times in her lifetime. She recently retired after a 36-year career as an IT professional in various industries: defense, medical, natural gas transmission, banking, and education. At Penn State, she worked with the University Libraries, Human Resources, and Development/Alumni Relations. Sherry was co-chair for the PSU President's Commission for Women and received the University Libraries Diversity Award. Since retiring, Sherry joined UWC through which she is learning Mah Jong, meeting other members, and participating in interest groups. She also enjoys traveling, spending time with her family, walking, and swimming. Sherry is also on the State College Quarterback Club board and is a big PSU football fan.





JoLaine Teyssier, nominee for Scholarship VP, is a life-long resident of State College, having earned a BS and MBA from Penn State and retired from the University after a 30-plus-year career in Human Resources. She enjoys a variety of interests and activities, including travel, Penn State sports, and knitting. JoLaine served a two-year term as president of the Penn State Alumni Association's Centre County Chapter and has volunteered with various other organizations. Most recently, she served as the UWC Programs VP and is looking forward to continuing to serve on the UWC board for the 2024-2025 year.

Shailaja Madhavan, our nominee for Development

Coordinator, moved to State College a year ago with her husband and two dogs after spending almost 30 years in Atlanta, GA. She is a Yoga Therapist and a Yoga teacher by profession. She loves hiking, reading, crafting, traveling, and trying different types of cuisine. She is happy to be a part of the UWC and felt welcomed to the community from her very first interaction with the group.



Bev Mullen, nominated for Secretary, hails from southern Pennsylvania and earned her BS and MS degrees from Shippensburg University. She was employed by a global company in Harrisburg for 23 years; in 2017 enjoyed early retirement from a middle management position. When you marry a Penn State professor, you move to State College! Bev has held various positions on the UWC Board, including serving as our 2020-2021 President (during the height of the COVID pandemic!). She enjoys participating in the Monday morning Meditation and Fun with Food interest groups. Her passions include cats, travel, crossword puzzles, entertaining, and eating good food.

Pat Weaver, our immediate Past President and nominee for Treasurer, was born and raised in Williamsport and moved to the State College area in 1972 with her husband, Jim. She worked at the State College Area School District for 40 years in the accounting and payroll offices and in the Park Forest Middle School. She is currently DKG, Chapter Beta Xi President, and finance chair at Mt. Nittany United Methodist Church, as well as treasurer of PFMS PTSO. Pat held the following positions in the UWC: Assistant Interest Group VP, Interest Group VP, President Elect, and President. Pat is currently co-leader for the new IG, Mexican Train. Her husband and son both received degrees from Penn State.



Sue Stephenson, nominee for Assistant Treasurer, first joined UWC in 1978 after moving to State College when her husband, Andy, joined the faculty in Biology. She fell in love with the Pennsylvania hills when she joined the hiking group back then and is still at it. She has enjoyed all the fun and friendships with the biking group, Literary Supper Club, yoga (and taught it for 4 years), garden group, Wine Divas, and Gotta Sing. She worked in various jobs in bookkeeping and tax preparation, so serving as treasurer for UWC since 2016 was a natural step. Since retiring, Sue enjoys spending time with her 4 grandchildren and playing cello in the Nittany Valley Symphony.



Recognizing two donors

We acknowledge and celebrate two donors whose contributions to our endowed scholarship fund were missed on the list we published in the last newsletter.

We appreciate the gifts given by Marilyn Gouran and Betty Parks.

If you make your contribution directly to the Endowment using a credit card or payroll deduction, the University will not release the information to us out of privacy concerns. We will revise the membership application to collect such information so that we can properly thank you for your support.

Celebrating Women's History Month: Past, Present, and Future Wisdom from Four Former UWC Presidents



Mary Eagleton



Mary Lou Bennett
and Iris Flynn



Barbara Dean

We were blessed recently to have interviewed four of our former UWC presidents who are among Centre County's nonagenarians (90-years-young!): Mary Eagleton, Iris Flynn, Barbara Dean, and Mary Lou Bennett. As you will read in the following paragraphs, these amazing women are fonts of personal and institutional memories that span both 20th and 21st centuries, as well as wisdom for all our futures. We asked these four women questions about where and how they were raised as young girls, how they transitioned to workforces and/or volunteer activities at Penn State, what they saw as their major contributions as presidents of the UWC, and life lessons learned then and now. As noted in our last set of interviews with UWC scholarship recipients, we encourage you to read, enjoy, and reflect on the rich, wise, and funny stories of Mary, Iris, Barbara, and Mary Lou, presented in chronological order of their presidencies:

Mary Eagleton (UWC President 1978-1979)

Mary Eagleton was raised in Lebanon, Pennsylvania, with her parents and one brother. As a youngster, she attended a private all-girls high school and grew up knowing she was bright, capable, and expected to pursue higher education just like her brother. Those expectations led her to Wellesley where she majored in psychology because it seemed like a practical degree for life, and it was the major of her roommates (who were also bright and capable!). Following graduation, Mary lived with her brother in Philadelphia while he went to law school, and she taught in a private school just outside the city. On weekends, they would drive home to visit their parents and enjoy home-cooked Sunday meals, some of which returned with them to Philly. During her time as a teacher,

a former roommate set her up with her fiancé's friend named Lee, an MIT and Yale graduate who was a research associate in Chemical Engineering at Columbia at the time. The fact that this young man eventually worked and taught in Philly sealed the deal for Mary, and they were married in 1953.

After more than a decade in Philly, Mary, Lee, and their three children moved to State College in 1969. Lee joined the chemical engineering department after being recruited by an old friend who was the new dean of engineering. They built the very first house in Toftrees, into which they moved in 1970. Living outside the downtown area prompted Mary to find avenues to get to know other people, so she attended a Faculty Women's Club interest group meeting on gardening in Boalsburg and was talked into greater participation "before she got too busy" with other activities. Mary became President-Elect and then President early in her tenure with the club, recalling getting "the box" of past club records as part of the well-run organization where most big events took place at the historic Nittany Lion Inn. Mary's memories of the UWC center on the many wonderful people she met through the Interest Groups and other club activities, memories and people she cherishes to this day.

Iris Flynn (UWC President 1985-1986)

A native of Michigan, Iris Flynn and her sister grew up in a household that also prioritized education (she was her high school valedictorian) and assumed they would attend college. She is a proud graduate of the University of Michigan (she still bleeds maize and blue to this day), where she met and married John (Jack) Flynn. They moved to State College in 1973 when Jack, an architect, accepted a professorship in the Department of Architectural Engineering at Penn State. Once settled in Happy Valley, she joined the UWC and became active in its volunteer and social activities. Following Jack's death in 1980, Iris took a staff position in the College of Education where she worked for 30 years until retiring in 2011. Despite her ongoing affinity for the University of Michigan, all four of her children, two sons-in-law, and two grandchildren are Penn State alums. Iris is the proud grandmother of 14 and great grandmother of 11.

Iris took over the club presidency when Interest Groups were the club's heart. At the time she joined, members were charged \$3.50 a year for dues; however, when she pointed out to the board that the amount did not cover expenses, they raised the dues to \$5! She has fond memories of the Spring Luncheon the year she served as president when the speaker was Ginny Thornburgh, the wife of the then two-term governor of Pennsylvania. Iris remained active in club leadership after her presidency. She is also a past president of the Penn State University Retirees Association (PSURA) and is currently the chair of the Retirees Assistance Program. She attended several Big Ten Retirees conferences at

various universities and was involved in planning the outstanding 2018 conference when it was hosted by PSURA, which will host again in 2029.

Barbara Dean (UWC President 1997-1998)

Barbara Dean was born and raised in Canton, Ohio, with boys as many of her best friends, and attended nearby Wooster College where she majored in physical education and played field hockey. For her senior thesis, she created and performed a modern dance with a partner who was a former State High School tennis star. Following graduation, she taught PE until she had to quit (as was common at that time) following her marriage to James (Carroll) Dean, a Floridian who served in the U.S Navy and met Barbara as a student at Wooster. They moved back to Florida for his additional degree, and then both worked at Sperry-Gyroscope on Long Island, New York. They moved to State College and Slab Cabin Station in 1955, where she ran a communications company and he worked on the electrical systems in Penn State's Office of Physical Plant, including the lighting at Beaver Stadium. As a Press Box usher for home games for over 30 years, he and Barbara enjoyed great seats for many games. She retains those memories and that fan identity even now. Outside of football, she and Carroll spent time on the water, in their own dinghy or on cruises along the Atlantic Coast and British West Indies.

A lifelong volunteer, Barbara attended a UWC meeting with a friend and immediately got involved in ways like our other former presidents. She noted that the UWC was in some transition during her presidency because this was the year that the bylaws were amended to extend membership to alums of Penn State in addition to faculty or faculty wives. She remembers working to balance both educational and social issues as club priorities, not always an easy balance.

Mary Lou Bennett (UWC President 2002-2003)

Born in Missouri and raised in Texas, Mary Lou was educated at the University of Texas, Austin, where she studied journalism and met her future husband, Peter. As a youngster, Mary Lou remembers enjoying physical education and playing half-court basketball. She earned extra cash during her college years by typing dissertations for graduate students at \$0.25 per page, long before word processors were available! She and Peter were married in 1953. By the time they arrived at Penn State in 1964, they had been married 11 years, lived in 8 different cities, and were already world travelers thanks to the Air Force, IBM, and graduate school. During these travels, they collected friends, memories, and artifacts that still grace her lovely home. Their move to Penn State occurred after he received multiple telegrams inviting him to accept a faculty position from his postdoctoral research station in Chile (the first offer was for \$10,500).

She remembers the days of State College being a dry area in Centre County so that faculty and guests had to bring their own “adult beverages” to the Faculty Club for evening events.

Mary Lou was a member of the PSU Newcomers Club when they first arrived at Penn State (the name for the first two years of the Faculty Wives Club) and then a member of the regular Penn State Faculty Wives Club. (This latter moniker remained until a former member divorced her faculty husband and the club bylaws and name were rewritten again to allow her to remain a member of the Club.) Although she always wanted to be a flight attendant, Mary Lou was considered too short and not an RN as required by the airlines at that time. Instead, she became a licensed real estate agent (Realtor) in 1973, worked for three different agencies until 1992 when she and five partners purchased a RE/MAX franchise and formed RE/MAX Centre Realty, and retired 28 years later in 2020. You can learn more about Mary Lou Bennett at the following link for an interview she did with *Town & Gown* in 2021:

<https://www.statecollege.com/town-and-gown/lunch-with-mimi-retired-realtor-and-community-leader-shares-the-secret-of-cultivating-personal-bonds/>

Life Lessons from our Sages

In the spirit of Women’s History Month, it is worth noting the central role education played in the lives of both past presidents and more recent scholarship recipients (that were highlighted in the Winter Newsletter). Their love of lifelong learning led them to memorable adventures in Happy Valley and around the world, cherished and enduring relationships with colleagues and friends, as well as awareness of and appreciation for the diversity of backgrounds, beliefs, and opportunities those adventures and relationships presented to them. In closing, take to heart their wisdom:

“Take a chance and put your name on that list. You never know who you will meet or where these people and activities will take you!”

“Take opportunities to be kind and compassionate.”

“Do not assume your opinion is the only valid one. Many people are too small-minded, so broaden your perspective and learn from others. We all want—and deserve—to be heard.”

“Consider the consequences of your own actions and words. Context is important in considering others’ actions and words too, which may change your own point of view.”

“Be open to new ideas, people, perspectives, and adventures.”

Scenes from our Winter Event See more photos at <https://sites.psu.edu/psuuwc/winter-events/>



On January 31, 2024, Professor Dr. W. Lawrence "Larry" Kenney spoke to us about "Aging in a Hotter World." His research is based on 3 Truths:

1. Our world is getting warmer.
2. Our population is aging rapidly.
3. Although humans are tropical animals, there are limits to the environment we can withstand for prolonged periods.

His research tests the physical reactions of subjects of various ages to environments of increasing temperature and/or humidity. They are seeking more "senior" volunteers; quite a few of our members stepped up to participate. To become a participant, contact Sue Slimak at sks31@psu.edu



Quick update on the new Interest Groups!

Mexican Train started in November with one game a month. It now meets twice a month: the second and fourth Monday evening from 6:30-8:30 pm and will continue to meet through the summer. The location may vary. To join, please contact Pat Weaver or Teddy Nicholas.

Bridge is divided into two sections. The "newbies," gamely taught by Bing Morris, meet Tuesday mornings to learn the art of communicating through the bidding process and winning the hand. The experienced players, coordinated by Jan Dillon, play on the second Tuesday afternoon, taking off in July and August. The group welcomes new members; contact Jan if you are interested in joining.

The **Walking Group** started March 1st at Tudek Park. Walkers meet at a designated park at 8:45 am for a 9:00 am start. They will have their last walk on May 31 and restart mid-August under the leadership of Jennifer Rittenhouse Pruss. If you are interested and not already on the email list, contact Jennifer. Attendance is not taken; you come when you can and walk as far and as fast as you would like or take a short stroll if that works better for you.

Stay in touch! MAKE SURE THE UWC CAN REACH YOU!

The UWC uses email to send members notice of the newsletter as well as important updates and reminders. We use "blind copy" to protect your privacy. Many email programs block such emails unless the sender is already a contact. **BE SURE PSUUWC@gmail.com is on your list of authorized email contacts.** HOW? You can manually add "psuuwc@gmail.com" to your list of contacts. For questions or help configuring your email, contact psuuwc@gmail.com

You can read this newsletter right on your screen or you can download and print it. If you have any questions, feel free to email the club at psuuwc@gmail.com

Between newsletters, visit the Penn State University Women's Club website at sites.psu.edu/psuuwc for the most recent updates. PLEASE also "Like" our FACEBOOK page to show support and to receive the latest Club news in your News Feed!

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**You are cordially invited to the
Penn State University Women's Club Spring Luncheon
and Annual Business Meeting**

DATE: Thursday, May 2, 2024

Time: 11:30 a.m.

PLACE: Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center, Dean's Hall

Cost: \$37 per person

Guest Speaker: Erin M. Coe, Director of the Palmer Museum of Art

Title: Designed for the Future: The New Palmer Museum of Art at Penn State

To read more about Erin, go to <https://palmermuseum.psu.edu/about/staff/>

Lunch buffet will feature: seasonal foods including the chef's selection of beef, fish and chicken, along with salads, fresh fruit, vegetable medley, artisan bread and rolls. Dessert, coffee, decaf coffee, and ice tea included.

Contact JoLaine Teyssier with questions. Invite a prospective member to join us!

Please mail this form with your check (payable to University Women's Club) to:

JoLaine Teyssier, 931 Metz Ave., State College, PA 16801 by April 22, 2024

Name: _____
(As you would like it to appear on your name tag)

Telephone Number: _____

Prospective Member Guest Name: _____

Enclosed: \$ _____ (Make check payable to University Women's Club)

Please indicate dietary restrictions or other needed accommodations: