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LADIES BLUE AND GOLD

SHEILA HUMPHREYS

CHRONICLE

OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

A JOURNAL OF UNIVERSITY HISTORY



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Chronicle
c/o Carroll Brentano
Center for Studies in Higher Education
University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720-4650
E-mail cbrentan@socrates.berkeley.edu

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Senior Women's Pilgrimage on Campus, May 1925. *University Archives*.

CHRONICLE

OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Fall 1998

LADIES BLUE AND GOLD

Edited by Janet Ruyle

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THE GIRLS



1904 Blue and Gold.

CONTRIBUTORS

REX W. ADAMS is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in history at UC Berkeley. His academic focus is on the comparative history of higher education in Great Britain and the United States.

CARROLL BRENTANO has a doctorate in architectural history from UC Berkeley, and has been coordinator of the University History Project in the Center for Studies in Higher Education for the past nine years.

ROBERT BRENTANO is a professor of medieval history at UC Berkeley and currently chair of the Academic Senate. He has been teaching on this campus since 1952; he gave a Faculty Research Lecture in 1988.

DOROTHY THELEN CLEMENS, a native of Berkeley, is a 1955 graduate of UC Berkeley and has been active in the YWCA since her student days. She and her professor-husband live in Berkeley where she teaches English as a second language.

GERALDINE JONÇICH CLIFFORD is a professor of the history of education with an interest in women's social history and taught at UC Berkeley's School of Education from 1962 to 1994. Since retirement she has been working on a book about women teachers in American history.

RAY COLVIG, a Berkeley graduate, was public information officer for the campus from 1964 to 1991. He has coauthored two books with the late Glenn T. Seaborg and has written articles about the university during the 1960s.

MARGARETTA J. DARNALL writes on architecture and landscape design. A Berkeley graduate in architecture, she completed graduate degrees in architectural history at Cornell University.

ARVILLE KNOCHE FINACOM, formerly a teacher and journalist, now does public relations work for nonprofit groups and is a docent at a San Mateo museum and at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco. She graduated from Berkeley, later earning teaching and administration credentials from the university.

ELIZABETH FINE GINSBURG worked for a New York publisher after graduating from Berkeley and earned a master's from Columbia University in history and social science. She is a retired Los Angeles high school teacher and former trainer of teachers for California State University, Northridge.

J. R. K. KANTOR served as University Archivist from 1964 to 1983. Since retirement he has been a curator of the Hall of Fame at Memorial Stadium, a museum of Cal's athletic history.

GERMAINE LA BERGE is an editor and interviewer at the Regional Oral History Office. She has an A.B. in history, an M.A. in education, and is a member (inactive) of the State Bar of California.

ANN LAGE is principal editor for the Regional Oral History Office of The Bancroft Library where she conducts oral history interviews to document the history of the University. She has an A.B. and an M.A. in history from UC Berkeley.

ANNE J. MACLACHLAN is a researcher at the Center for Studies in Higher Education with interest in graduate education and placement, women and minorities in the academy, and faculty career and development issues. She has a Ph.D. in economic history.

KAARIN MICHAELSEN is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of History, UC Berkeley. Her research interests include the history of science and medicine in modern Britain.

MARY LEE NOONAN attended Wellesley as an undergraduate, earned her master's degree from Radcliffe, and has been a Berkeley faculty wife since 1967. She served as president of the University Section Club during the academic year 1992-93.

ROBERTA J. PARK is a Professor of the Graduate School, Department of Integrative Biology, UC Berkeley, and former chair (1982-92) of the Department of Human Biodynamics. Her A.B. and Ph.D. degrees are from Berkeley.

BARBARA LEONARD ROBBEN graduated from Cal in 1960. She still lives in Berkeley and continues to be interested in music and "running around the hills."

WILLIAM ROBERTS is University Archivist since 1984; he has been on the Berkeley campus as student and employee since 1961.

HARRIET SHAPIRO ROCHLIN, a native of Los Angeles who graduated from Berkeley in Hispanic studies, has been a full-time writer since 1967. Her books in print include two novels and a social history of pioneer Jews.

JANET RUYLE, a Berkeley graduate, joined the research staff at the Center for Studies in Higher Education in 1960, working on a variety of projects. She was Assistant Director of the Center from 1976 to 1993.

ROSE D. SCHERINI has a doctorate in educational anthropology from UC Berkeley. She has served in campus staff positions at the Counseling Center and the Office of Student Research. Her current interests include historical research and writing about Italian Americans.

MARGARET DARLING EVANS SCHOLER is a Berkeley graduate in decorative arts who worked at the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory during World War II. After having three children and a career as an interior decorator, she turned to teaching adults about American antiques at a community college and elsewhere and continues to do so.

THE
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Announcement

The True Idea of a University

JOSEPH LECONTE

The University Sobrante

W. E. DAVIS

A Year's Review

MARTIN KELLOGG

Edmund Burke as a Statesman

SHELDON G. KELLOGG

Buildings and Equipment; The Phebe Hearst Architectural Plan; Official
Action; The Library; Scientific Societies; University Extension in
Agriculture; Climatic Conditions of Berkeley; Mrs. Ann Jane Stiles;
The Students' Aid Society; Current Notes.

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A WORD TO OUR READERS

IN 1898 BERNARD MOSES, the university's first professor of history, established the *University Chronicle*, later known as the *University of California Chronicle*. He saw that "there were and would be public addresses at the University and documents relating to the affairs of the institution that ought to be preserved and made readily available," as he wrote in his unpublished autobiography. That *Chronicle*, appearing quarterly between 1898 and 1933, provided its readers with intelligent and entertaining accounts of contemporary events in the university's social, academic, and administrative life. Moreover, the *Chronicle* no doubt assisted in creating and fostering an identity, crucial not only for the campus community but also in mediating the university's dealings with the public.

Today, our institutional identity might appear to be firmly established, but institutional memory is ebbing. Every year thousands of new students (along with faculty members and administrators) enter the university's campuses with little knowledge of the institution beyond its admissions requirements and perhaps its reputation for radicalism in the 1960s. And every year almost as many students leave knowing little more about their alma mater than when they entered. While institutional identity will and must evolve, it should maintain a self-consciousness of its direction by acknowledging its past. Without memory there is no identity; without identity the university is left as a mere collection of disparate buildings and people.

It is with this in mind that we, the Editorial Board, have revived the *University of California Chronicle*, in spirit if not in content. The new *Chronicle*, in contrast to the earlier publication has an historical perspective. We are able to consider the current events of our predecessors in the context of ongoing changes within the university. Embracing this opportunity, the new *Chronicle*, at least initially, is organized around single themes that present an inherently longitudinal view of the university's development. The first issue considered institutional responses to natural disasters and calamities. Future issues will focus on the university and the environment, a look at how the university has changed on the eve of the 21st century from its 19th century roots, and the university's relationship to institutions around the world.

In this same vein we now, with great pleasure, offer to our readers this current issue: *Ladies Blue and Gold*.

The Editorial Board



1913 Blue and Gold.

LADIES BLUE AND GOLD

WOMEN FIRST ENTERED the University of California in its second year of classes, 1870. Eight women joined eighty-two men in the former College of California buildings on Twelfth Street in downtown Oakland, crossing muddy streets, dodging wagons and carriages in their long dresses, hats, and, no doubt, gloves. In the *Announcement of Courses* for that year were "Latin, Greek, Modern Language, Elocution and English Composition, History, Algebra, and Drawing (optional)."

When the move to the Berkeley site was completed in September 1873, there were twenty-two ladies, one of whom, Rosa L. Scrivner '74, was the first woman graduate with a Ph.B., a bachelor's degree common for both men and women at that time. For their studying and socializing the ladies repaired to one small room in North Hall; not until Stiles Hall opened in 1893 did they enjoy expanded quarters, as Dorothy Thelen Clemens tells in her history of the University YWCA. That building, which stood on the present site of the newly expanded Harmon Gymnasium/Haas Pavilion, was itself the gift of a Berkeley lady, Mrs. Ann Stiles. It was the first of several structures given to the campus by women of California—Phoebe Apperson Hearst, Elizabeth Josselyn Boalt, Jane Krom Sather, May Treat Morrison '78—as well as by the women students who raised funds for the construction of their clubhouse, Girton Hall (designed by alumna Julia Morgan '94), as described by Margaretta J. Darnall. Roberta J. Park reviews the need for and the development of women and sports at Berkeley from 1876 to 1976.

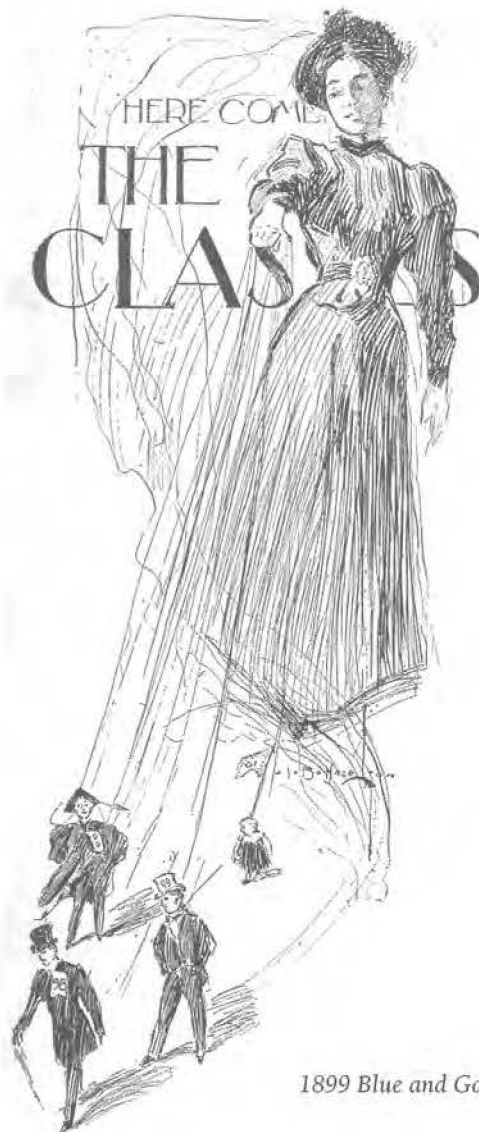
Ladies Blue and Gold received their diplomas and went forth into the world: Fannie McLean '85, a leading suffragette, taught generations of high school students; May Shepard Cheney '83 spent her life placing university graduates as school teachers, first as an independent businesswoman, then as the university's first appointment secretary. A newcomer to California after World War I, Ida Louise Jackson '22, became the first black teacher in the Oakland public schools, and, decades later, a major donor to the university. A young girl named Helen Wills learned her game on the Berkeley courts and became an outstanding woman tennis player of the century; she recently left a bequest for the construction of a neurosciences insititute on campus. And perhaps the most telling view of Cal in the early 1950s has been from Joan Didion, as quoted by Ray Colvig in his discussion of women faculty. Also in the issue are a few personal vignettes of student life from women of several different decades and a view of women at the Davis campus.

All professors were men until 1904, when Jessica Peixotto '94, who received her Ph.D. from the university, was appointed a lecturer in sociology. She joined Lucy Sprague, who had arrived the year before and later became the first dean of women in 1906. Miss Sprague urged the women students to create an outdoor pageant, the Partheneia, which became an annual spectacle for nearly twenty years; photographs from a few of these productions are shown in this issue. As the university was readying for its diamond jubilee, Josephine Miles, who had earned her Ph.D. at Berkeley in 1938, was appointed the first woman professor in the Department of English; and before her death in 1985 she had become the first woman University Professor in the statewide University of California.

Scattered throughout this issue are brief biographies that originally appeared as part of the material created for a conference on women at Berkeley, April 28-29, 1995, and included in *Honoring Women at Cal* and a Doe Library exhibition, *Women Who Built Berkeley*. Permission for use of the material has been granted by Maresi Nerad, Graduate Division, and Lucy Sells, Center for Studies in Higher Education, with additional credit for the exhibition to Diane Harley and Deana Heath, Center for Studies in Higher Education, and William Roberts, University Archives, who furnished the illustrations.

Although our palette has been necessarily limited, we hope our readers may take away from these accounts some sense of the challenges which faced university women for almost a full century, and their achievements, as well as the support and honors our Ladies Blue and Gold have brought to this university.

The Editorial Board



1899 Blue and Gold.