

ACADEMICS



**Leaders in All
Walks of Life**

FIFTY YEARS OF WOMEN AT BOWDOIN



alumnae speak: preparation

“Bowdoin exemplified a high quality liberal arts institution then as it does now. My major was biology, but I also had a strong interest in the arts and humanities, and the classes I took prepared me well for both an intense career in academic medicine and a lifelong love for the visual arts, music, and literature.”

CHERYL COFFIN '75



Most Popular Majors 1971–1996

YEAR	WOMEN	MEN
1971	English (1)	Biology (33)
1976	History (14)	History (60)
1981	Government (27)	Government (59)
1986	Government (31)	Government (65)
1991	English and History (23)	Govt. and Legal Studies (54)
1996	English (33)	Govt. and Legal Studies (36)

Most Popular Majors 2001–2021

YEAR	WOMEN	MEN
2001	English (27)	Govt. and Legal Studies (39)
2006	Govt. and Legal Studies (33)	Govt. and Legal Studies (56)
2011	Govt. and Legal Studies (26)	Economics (40)
2016	Govt. and Legal Studies (41)	Economics (54)
2021	Govt. and Legal Studies (44)	Economics (49)

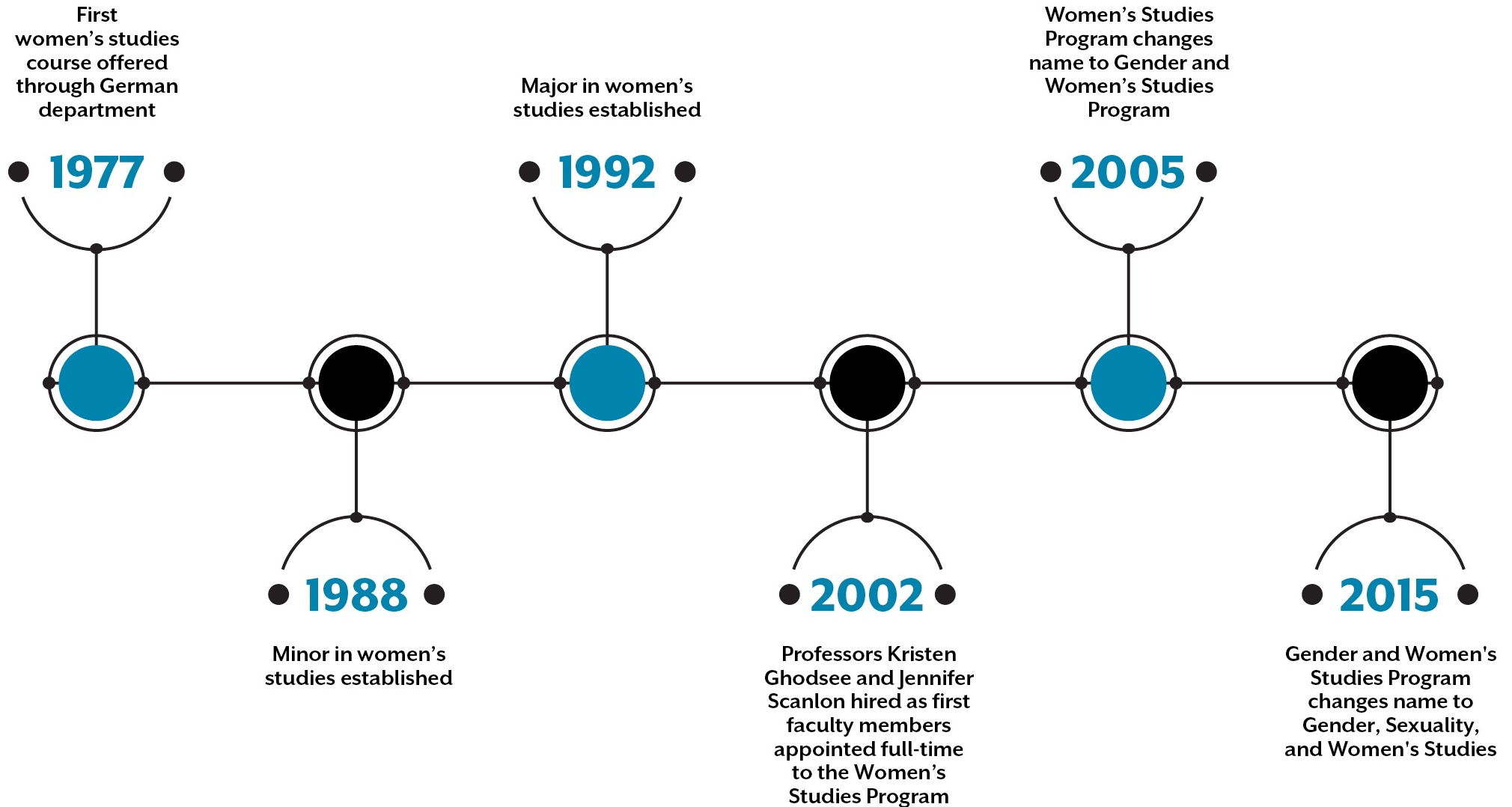
alumnae speak: classics

“As I researched potential colleges, Bowdoin immediately became a front-runner for my study of classics due to its rigor and to its program, which included Latin, Greek, and archaeology. I remember visiting Sills Hall and seeing the names of the scholars who had won the respective Latin, Greek, and classics prizes through many years, and I hoped that my scholarship would stand up to the standards of those who had excelled before me.”

MARY JO GORMAN KEANEY '86

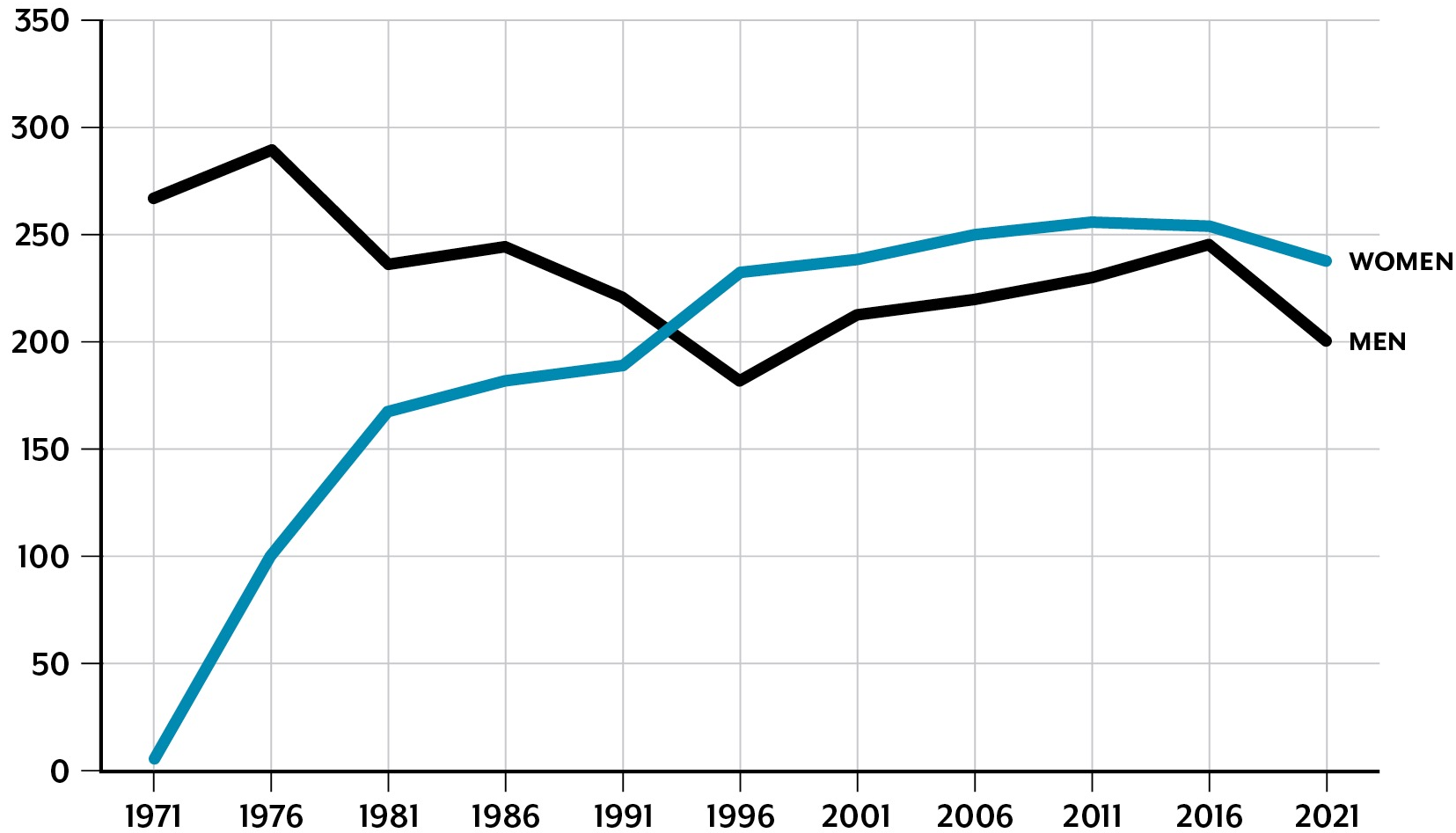


Women and Bowdoin Academics





Bowdoin Matriculation by Gender



YEAR	WOMEN	MEN
1971	1	264
1976	100	288
1981	167	233
1986	173	244
1991	186	220
1996	229	183
2001	237	212
2006	249	222
2011	255	227
2016	252	244
2021	236	201



TARAH WHEELER VAN VLACK
Foreword by Esther Dyson

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**<WOMEN
 IN TECH>**

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- THE SECRETS OF SALARY NEGOTIATION
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alumnae speak: coeducation

“Not all of the professors were onboard with coeducation, so I did feel that I needed to represent women’s perspectives, intelligence, and creativity in every class. This was hard, but prepared me for professional life in the 1970s. It was well worth the effort — both for me personally and for coeducation on campus!!”

CALLIE CURTIS '72



Most Popular Majors 1971–1996

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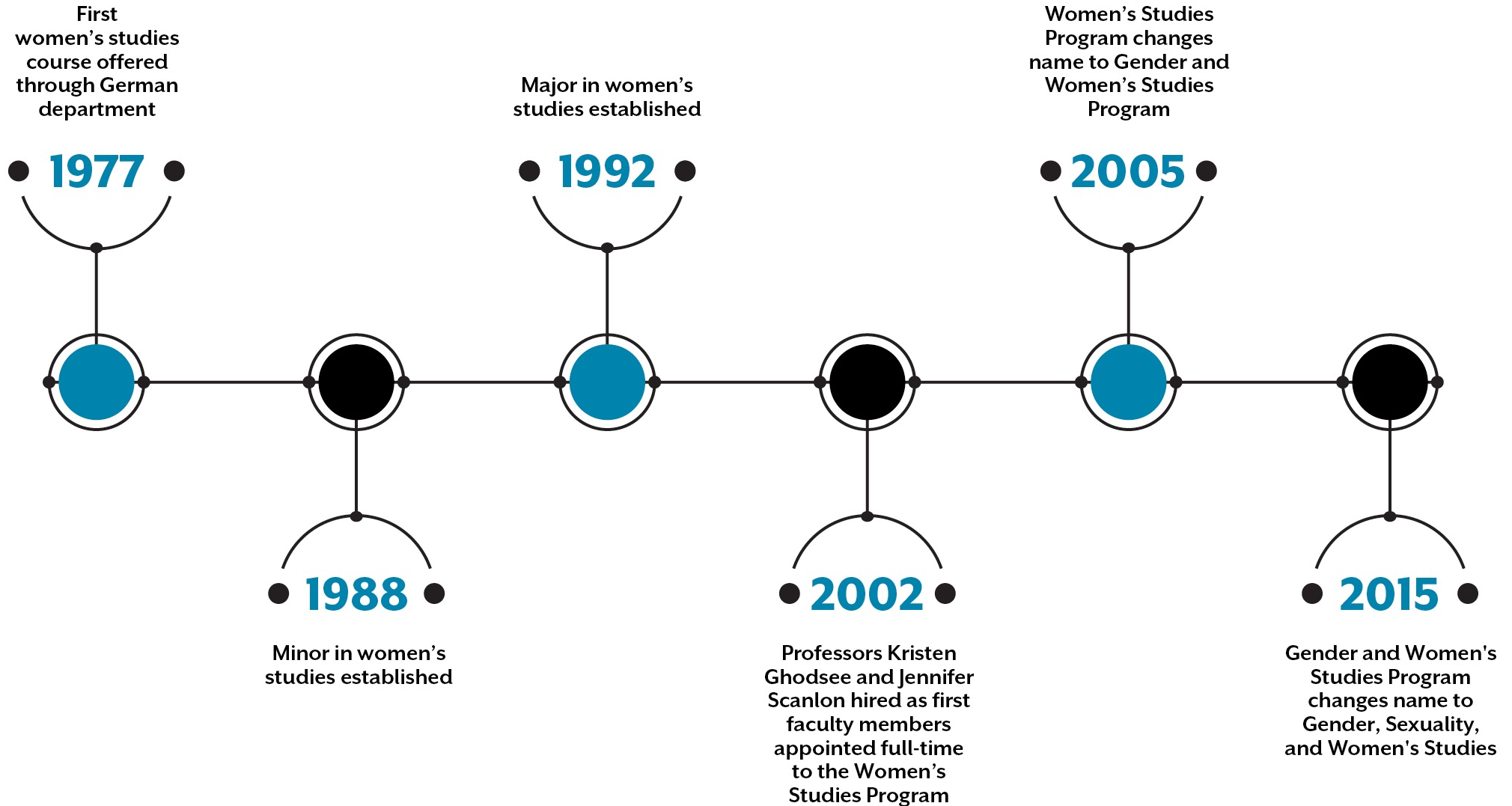
alumnae speak: participation

“When I was a freshman, male students thought I was a junior exchange student from Smith College since I was very comfortable volunteering answers and participating in debates.”

MARY JO GORMAN KEANEY '86



Women and Bowdoin Academics



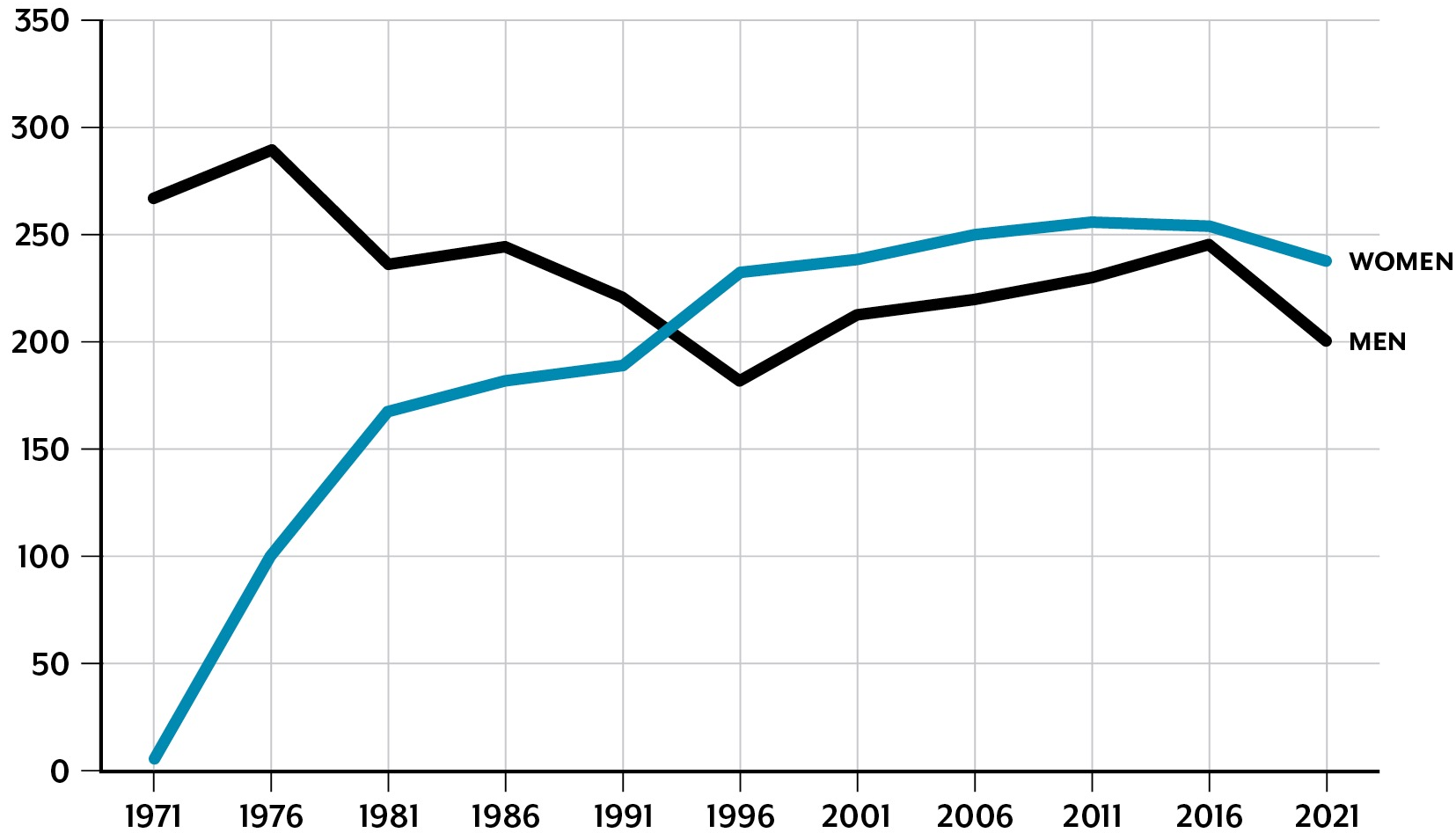
alumnae speak: **personal voice**

“My Bowdoin experience has profoundly shaped my voice in the world. I am a female Latinx scientist, mentor, and educator, currently working as a postdoctoral scholar at Stanford University. In the fall of 2022, I will start as an assistant professor of biology at Reed College in Portland, Oregon, where I will work with undergraduates to explore the wonders of plant development.”

CAMILA LOPEZ-ANIDO '09



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alumnae speak: **expression**

“The classes were rigorous, the professors emphasized sound reasoning and problem-solving, and many exams were essay-based, which further strengthened the ability to think and express one’s thoughts well in writing.”

CHERYL COFFIN '75



alumnae speak: **critical thinking**

“My work as a scientist, mentor, and educator stems directly from my education at Bowdoin, where I double-majored in biochemistry and gender and women’s studies. Through my courses and experiences, I developed and strengthened my voice and the critical thinking skills needed to make the sciences more inclusive.”

CAMILA LOPEZ-ANIDO '09