

# ADVOCACY



**Leaders in All  
Walks of Life**

FIFTY YEARS OF WOMEN AT BOWDOIN

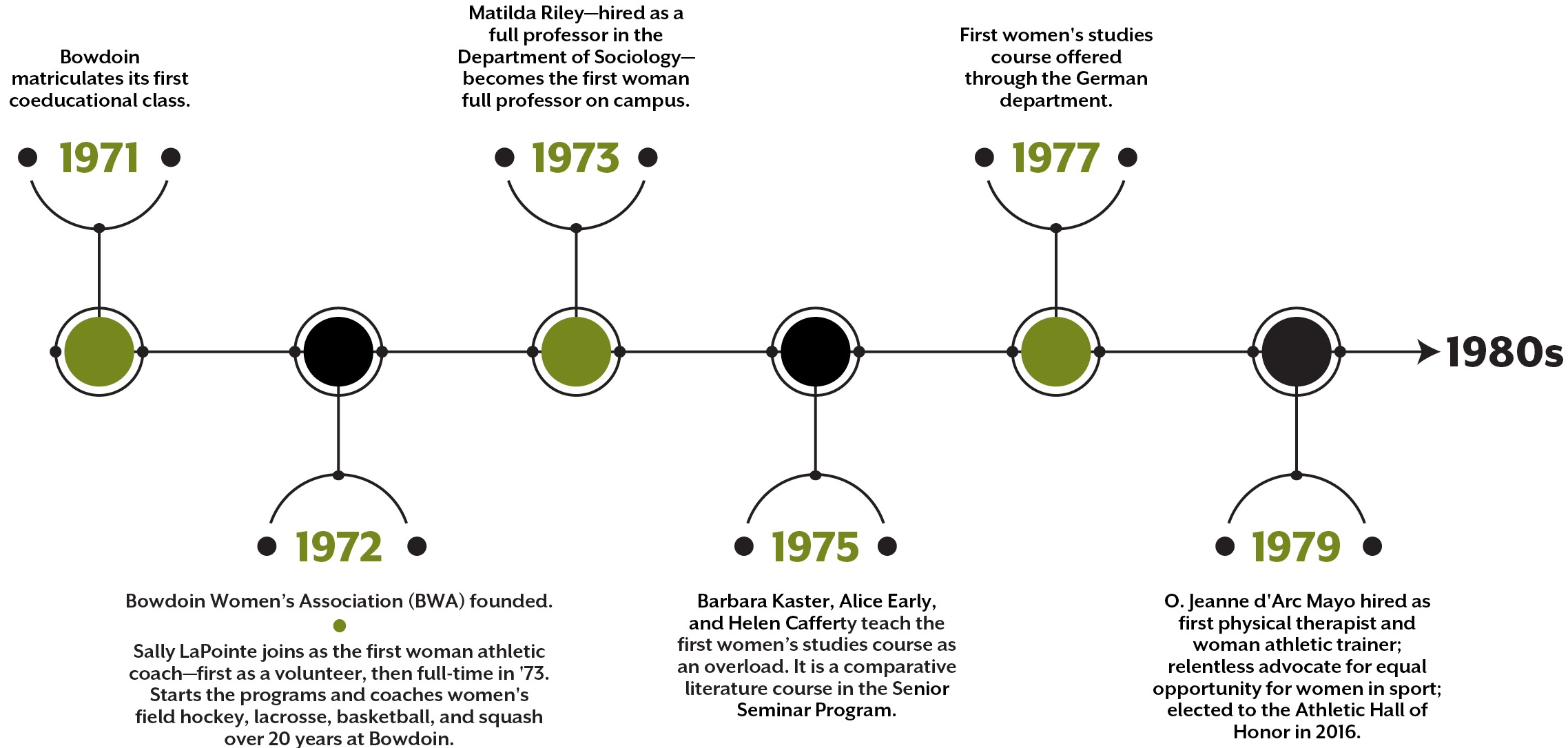
# alumnae speak: acceptance

“Women had to advocate for each other.  
I feel that a true acceptance of Bowdoin as  
a coeducational institution came later.  
We were an add-on in many ways—and not  
appreciated for what we brought to the  
campus on all levels.”

CALLIE CURTIS '72

# Women and Advocacy in the 1970s

A SMALL SAMPLE OF THE MANY IMPORTANT MILESTONES, ADVOCATES, AND STORIES ABOUT THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN AT BOWDOIN





# alumnae speak: **athletics**

“The female population has risen to over 500, we are trying to handle twelve intercollegiate programs with two full-time people while there are twenty-one intercollegiate programs for men with nine full-time coaches and a few part-timers...”

SALLY LAPOINTE to President Howell in a 1976–1977 report.

# spark conversation: **share your stories**

What does advocacy mean to you?

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When reflecting on your experiences at Bowdoin, do you remember any particular moments in which you saw advocacy for women at work?

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Did you see a need for advocacy on campus and did you organize to get this need met?

What initiatives might you have been involved in?

# alumnae speak: **BWA**

“My first engagement in the fall of 1979 was with the Bowdoin Women’s Association (BWA) and it changed my life... We felt the center to be essential to provide a space in what remained very much a male-dominated culture for women to find and to develop our own authentic voices.”

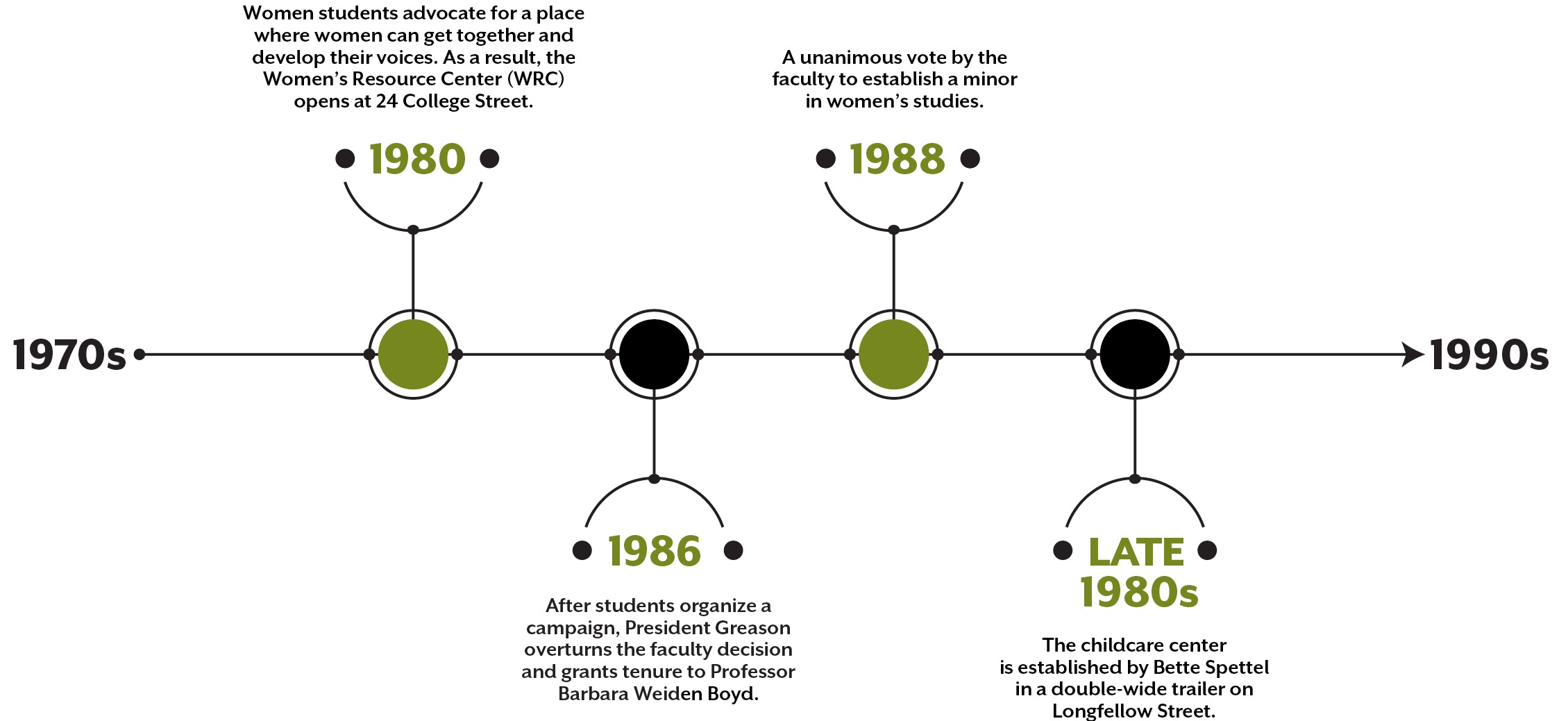
LINDA NELSON '83





# Women and Advocacy in the 1980s

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# alumnae speak: **tenure**

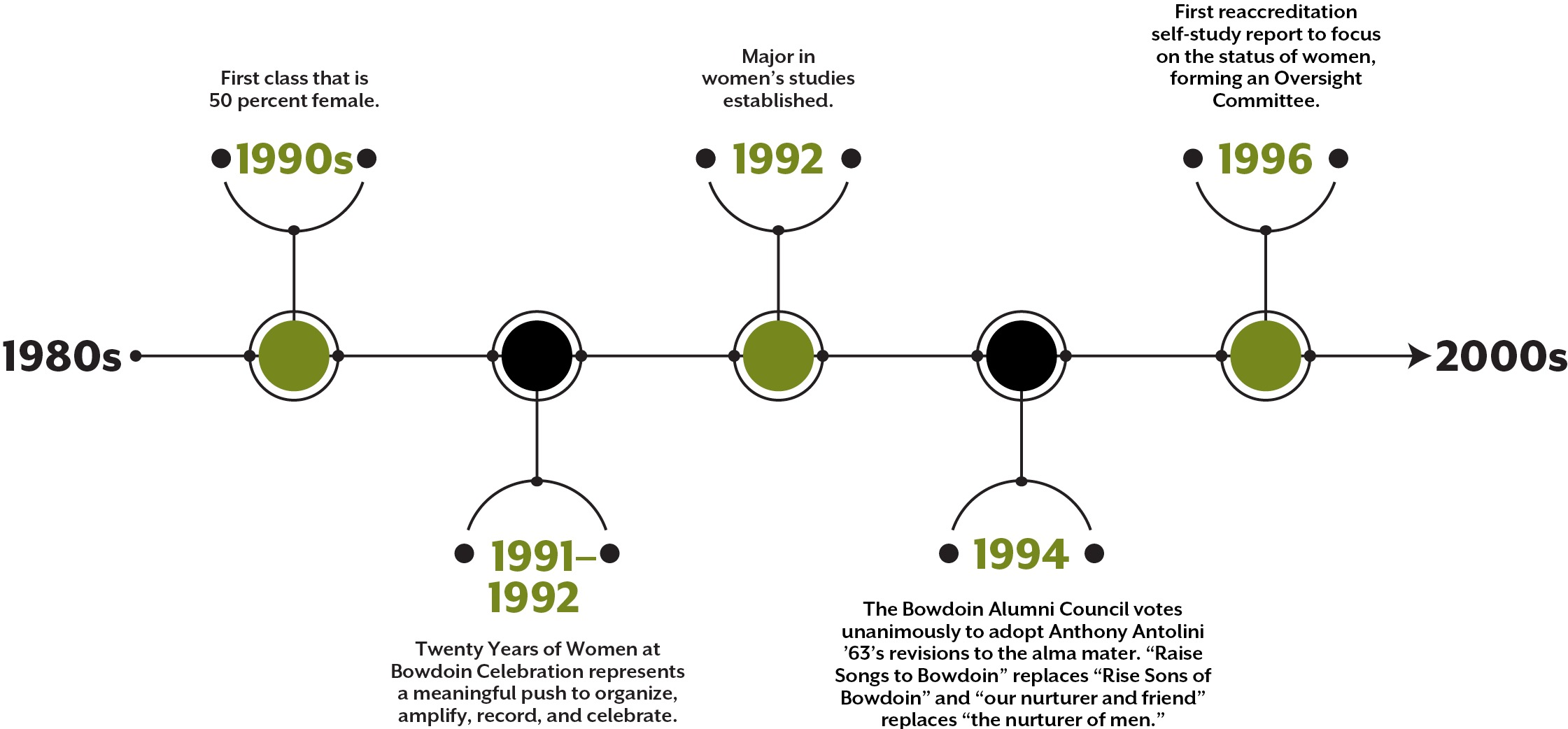
“In the seventies and eighties, women were hired but often in replacement positions. It was difficult to make a real dent in the plurality of male tenure-track positions in order to achieve a critical mass of women faculty and bring gender balance to the power then held by tenured men...”

HELEN L CAFFERTY

William R. Kenan Professor of German and the Humanities

# Women and Advocacy in the 1990s

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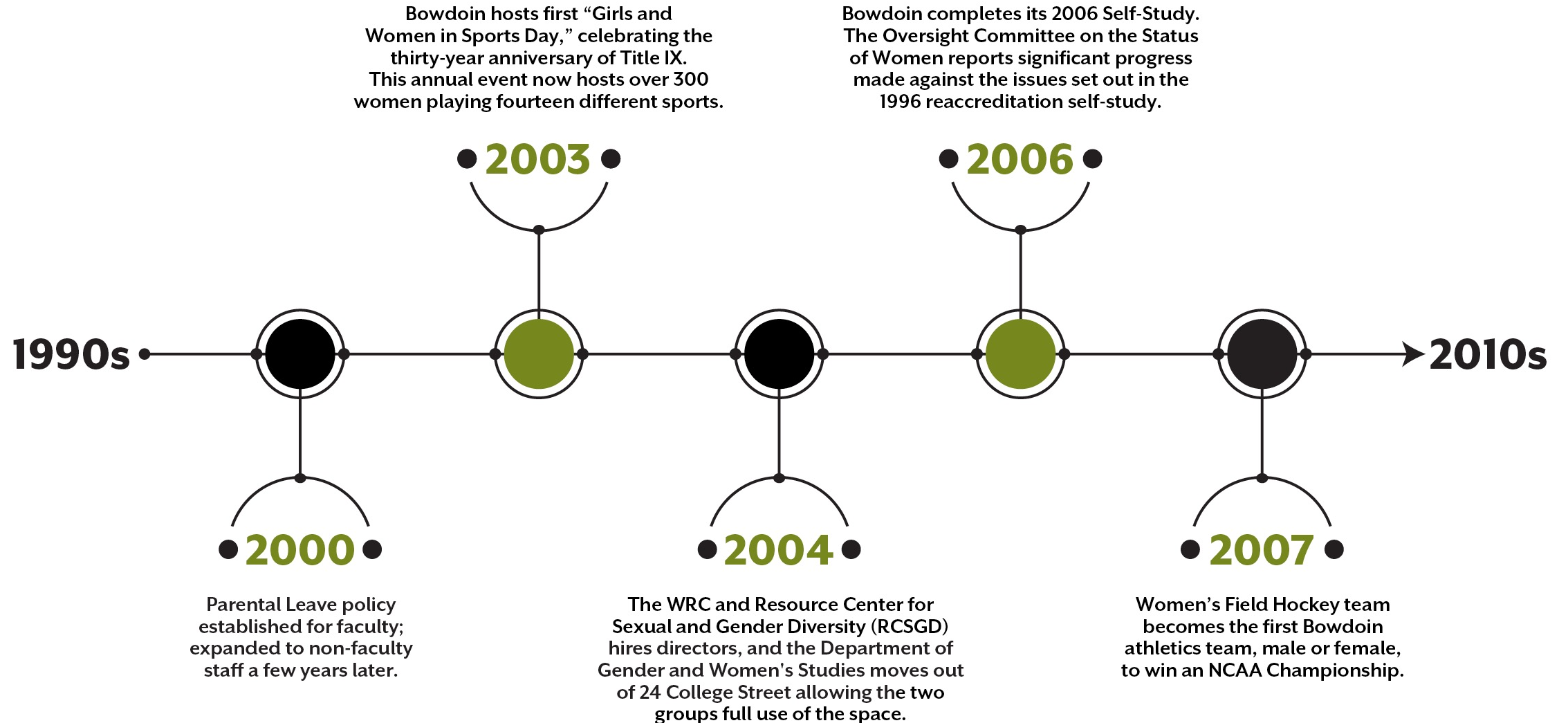
# alumnae speak: oversight self-study

“The Oversight Committee on the Status of Women was established in 1995–1996 to involve faculty, students, and administrative staff in the continuing oversight of important issues related to climate and equality at Bowdoin.”

FROM BOWDOIN COLLEGE SELF-STUDY 2006

# Women and Advocacy in the 2000s

A SMALL SAMPLE OF THE MANY IMPORTANT MILESTONES, ADVOCATES, AND STORIES ABOUT THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN AT BOWDOIN



# alumnae speak: **SWAG**

“The continued existence of the Women’s Center today as the Center for Sexuality, Women, and Gender (SWAG) is a testament to the determination of Bowdoin women to insist on the power of our unique voices over generations.”

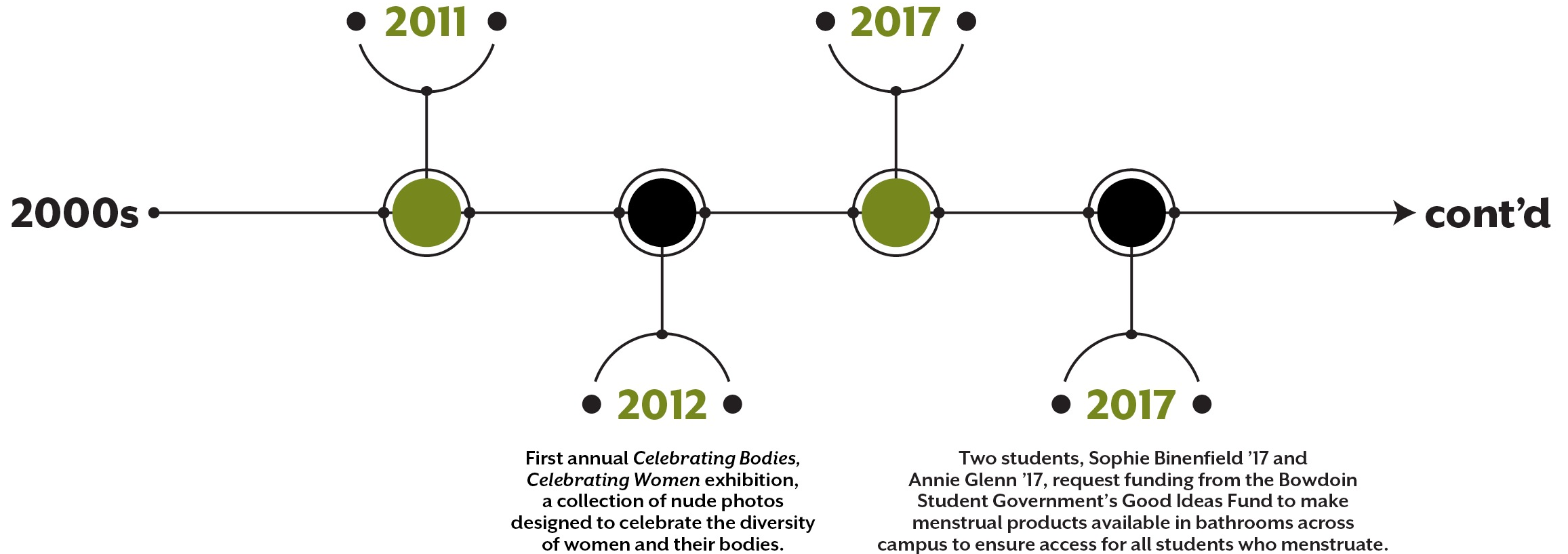
LINDA NELSON '83

# Women and Advocacy in the 2010s

A SMALL SAMPLE OF THE MANY IMPORTANT MILESTONES, ADVOCATES, AND STORIES ABOUT THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN AT BOWDOIN

As part of the 40 Years of Women at Bowdoin celebration, Gender and Women's Studies 280 (Fall 2011) documents the history of the College's move to coeducation and the forty years since.

The WRC and RCSGD joined to create the Sexuality, Women, and Gender Center (SWAG) to build a less siloed and more integrated approach to supporting women and queer students, under the direction of Kate Stern.







# Women and Advocacy in the 2010s

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