ADVOCACY



alumnae speak: acceptance

"Women had to advocate for each other.

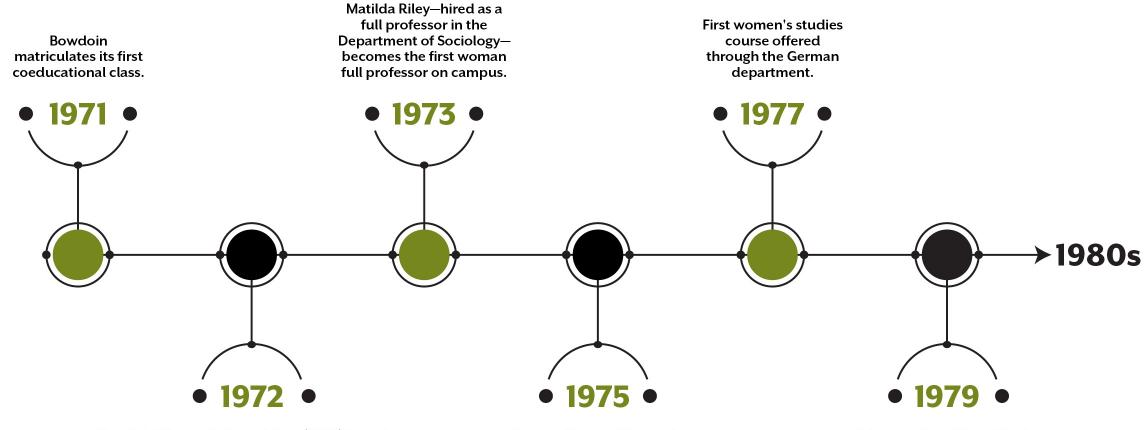
I feel that a true acceptance of Bowdoin as a coeducational institution came later.

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



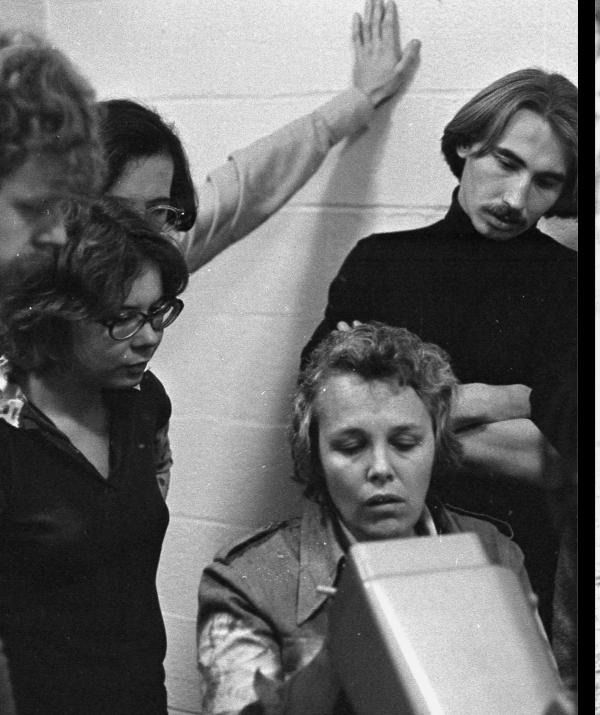
Bowdoin Women's Association (BWA) founded.

Sally LaPointe joins as the first woman athletic coach—first as a volunteer, then full-time in '73. Starts the programs and coaches women's field hockey, lacrosse, basketball, and squash over 20 years at Bowdoin.

Barbara Kaster, Alice Early, and Helen Cafferty teach the first women's studies course as an overload. It is a comparative literature course in the Senior Seminar Program. O. Jeanne d'Arc Mayo hired as first physical therapist and woman athletic trainer; relentless advocate for equal opportunity for women in sport; elected to the Athletic Hall of Honor in 2016.









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?

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

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

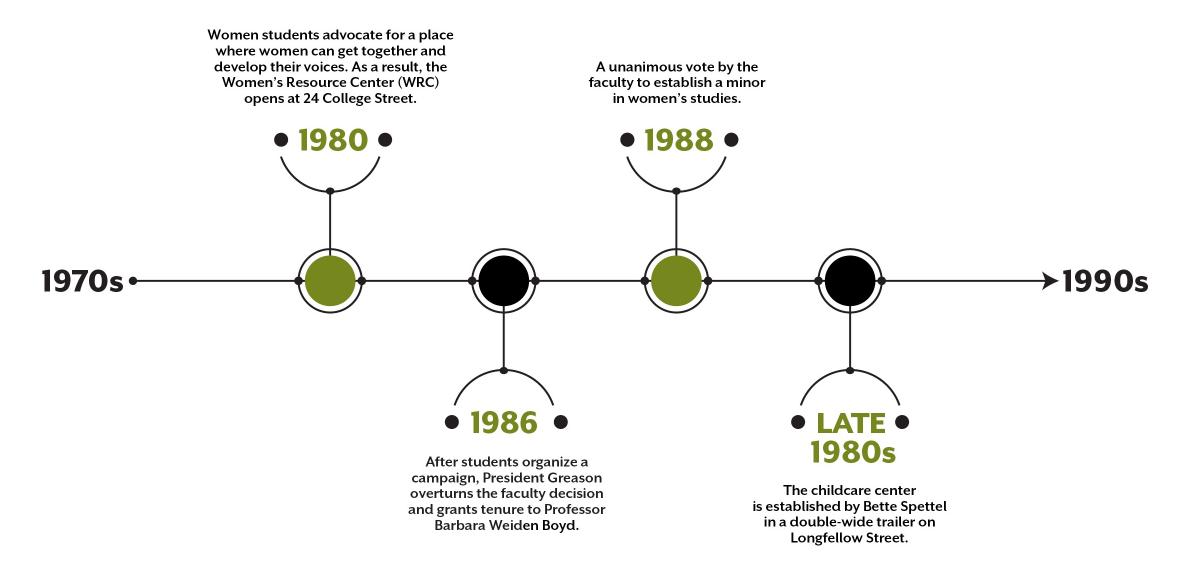
"My first engagement in the fall of 1979 was with the Bowdoin Women's Association (BWA) and it changed my life... We felt the center to be essential to provide a space in what remained very much a male-dominated culture for women to find and to develop our own authentic voices."

LINDA NELSON '83



Women and Advocacy in the 1980s

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



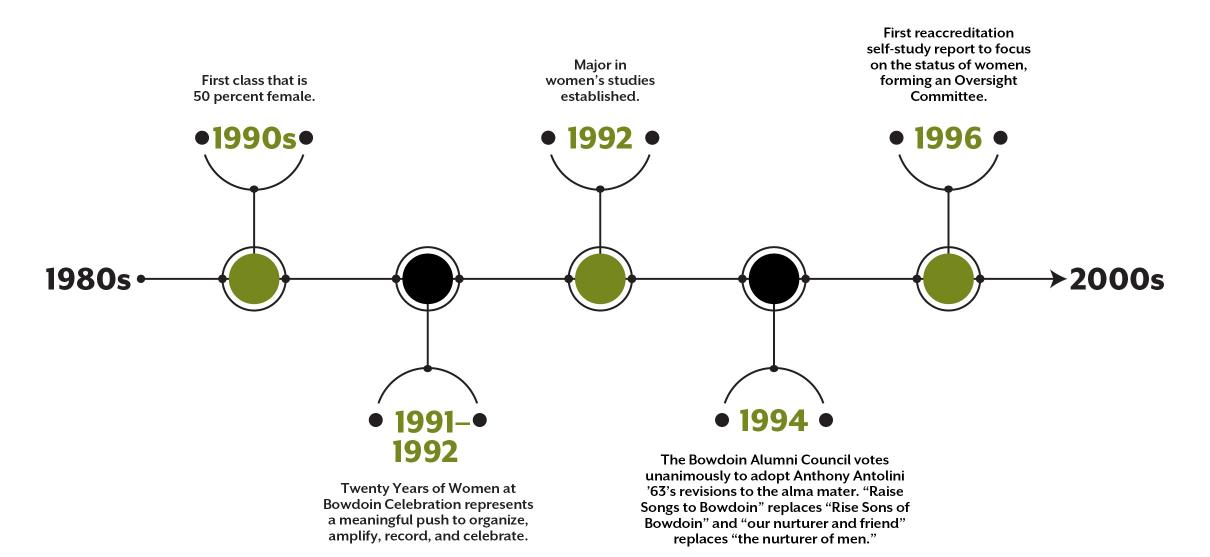
alumnae speak: tenure

"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

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











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."

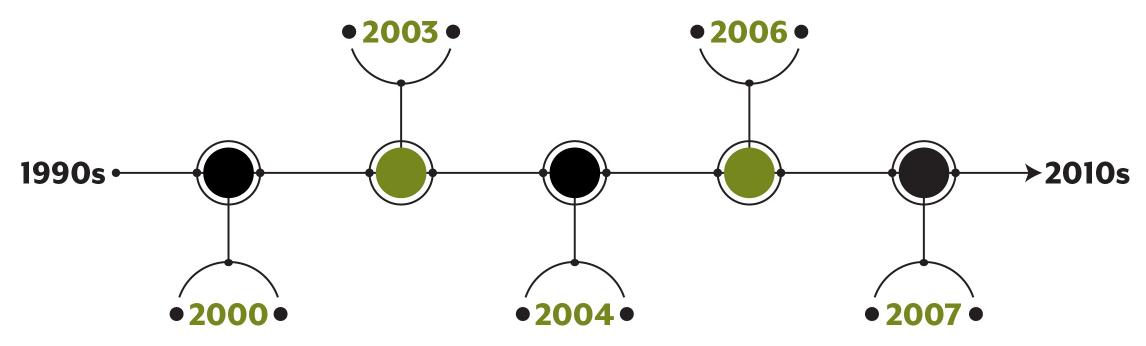
FROM BOWDOIN COLLEGE SELF-STUDY 2006

Women and Advocacy in the 2000s

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

Bowdoin hosts first "Girls and Women in Sports Day," celebrating the thirty-year anniversary of Title IX.
This annual event now hosts over 300 women playing fourteen different sports.

Bowdoin completes its 2006 Self-Study. The Oversight Committee on the Status of Women reports significant progress made against the issues set out in the 1996 reaccreditation self-study.



Parental Leave policy established for faculty; expanded to non-faculty staff a few years later.

The WRC and Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity (RCSGD) hires directors, and the Department of Gender and Women's Studies moves out of 24 College Street allowing the two groups full use of the space. Women's Field Hockey team becomes the first Bowdoin athletics team, male or female, to win an NCAA Championship.

alumnae speak: SWAG

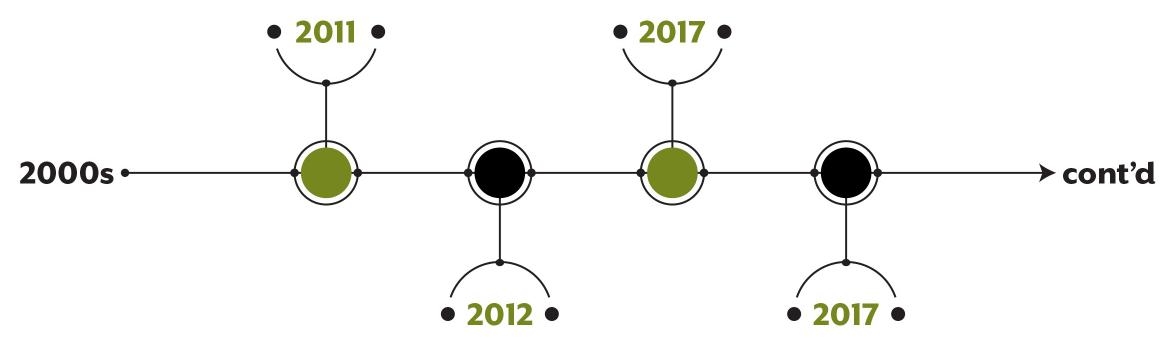
"The continued existence of the Women's
Center today as the Center for Sexuality,
Women, and Gender (SWAG) is a testament
to the determination of Bowdoin women
to insist on the power of our unique voices
over generations."

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.



First annual Celebrating Bodies, Celebrating Women exhibition, a collection of nude photos designed to celebrate the diversity of women and their bodies. Two students, Sophie Binenfield '17 and Annie Glenn '17, request funding from the Bowdoin Student Government's Good Ideas Fund to make menstrual products available in bathrooms across campus to ensure access for all students who menstruate.









Women and Advocacy in the 2010s

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