Women’s Leadership Council
Brown University

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL:
Genine Fidler ’77, P’04, P’12
Peige Katz ’91
Julie Meister ’75, P’03, P’06
Nancy Neff ’76, P’06
Mary Vascellaro ’74, P’07
Susan Friedman ’77, P’08

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
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Ellen Alberding ’79, P’12
Ardan Armstrong ’82
Andrea Terzi Baum ’83
Rachel K. Berg ’93
Meredith J. Berkmann ’86
Joan W. Berman ’74, P’05, P’11
Linda Smith Buonanno ’67, P’93
Elizabeth B. Burnett ’76, P’10
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Natalie D. Fair ’86
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Nancy Gidwitz ’70
Martha C. Goss ’71, P’04
Nancy R. Kail ’84
Tobi B. Klar ’76, P’05 AM’06, P’08
Adrienne Morphy Ladd ’79
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Marcy Mittlemann P’00, P’04
Diane Lake Northrop ’54, P’81
Miriam Reichert-Sternlicht ’83
Elizabeth M. Sherman ’77, P’06, P’09
Tori Williams ’79
Donna C.E. Williamson ’74
Lauren J. Zalaznick ’84
Lauren J. Zucker ’91

WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP COUNCIL CELEBRATED ITS 5TH ANNUAL MEETING!

The 5th annual meeting of the Women’s Leadership Council (WLC) was held on Thursday, October 23rd and 28 WLC members were in attendance. At the annual meeting WLC members voted to host Brown Women’s Networking events in various regions of the country (and world). Council members have done a remarkable job of promoting and engaging Brown women in their respective cities. To date, 8 council members have committed to hosting events and some have already taken place! We would like to acknowledge Nancy Gidwitz ’70 for hosting a remarkable event in her home. Professor Jennifer Lawless presented “Women In Politics: An Analysis of the 2008 Presidential Election”, which prompted a lively discussion about the 2008 election and the particular challenge faced by women in politics. Over 25 Chicago area alumnae were in attendance!

Marcy Mittlemann P’00, P’04 graciously hosted a Women’s Launch Pad mentee check in at her home in Providence in December. Thirty-five students were treated to a home cooked meal and then broke into groups to share their mentoring experiences to date, how they have been going about their job searches, and ideas their mentors had given them. Also in attendance were WLP mentors and WLC members: Allison McMillan ’74, P’09, Dr. Bonnie Reibman ’74 and Joan Sorensen ’72, P’06, P’06. Their participation enhanced the discussions, highlighting the intergenerational networking mission of the Women’s Launch Pad.

WOMEN’S LAUNCH PAD KICKOFF CELEBRATION

In late October with close to 100 WLP participants attending, the Women’s Launch Pad (WLP) began its third year with a Kick Off event held in the Corporation Room at University Hall. The audience of female students, alumnae and administrators reflected well on the diverse and accomplished members of the growing WLP community and their enthusiasm for this unique and rewarding program. Anastasia Aguiar ’09, Women in the World Executive Board Member, and Nancy Neff ’76, P’06, WLC co-chair addressed the group, highlighting key areas of focus this year, including:

- Enhanced relationship management - Bi-monthly mentee checkins facilitated by Women in the World leadership, mentees share best practices for communicating with their mentors, update each other on job search and more; mentor email checkins and WLC hosted mentee checkins.

- Programmatic innovations - A first of its kind mentor toolkit providing a range of resources to help mentors address some of the commonly presented issues from seniors such as: self-assessment, skill development, job search process, graduate school, international considerations, and relocation after graduation. Additionally, a WLP website is in the planning stages.

- Engagement of former mentors and mentees- Exploring online networking platforms to improve networking and communications among the WLP community.

Save the date for the WLP year-end celebration with a panel of former mentees to discuss their transitions from Brown. This panel discussion will be open to the University and is scheduled for the afternoon of Friday, April 24th.

2008–2009 Women’s Launch Pad Mentors and Mentees
EXCITING WOMEN AT BROWN

Sara Damiano’08 Selected as First Recipient of Inaugural Ruth Simmons Prize in Gender and Women's Studies

To be the first winner of a new prize is special. To be the first recipient of a prize created by your University's president is an honor that is truly extraordinary. It is no accident that the recipient of the inaugural Ruth Simmons Prize in Gender and Women's Studies is Sara Damiano’08 for her honors thesis in History titled “From the Shadows of the Bar: Law and Women's Legal Literacy in Eighteenth-Century Newport.” The prize is awarded annually for an outstanding honors thesis on questions having to do with women and gender. This spring, the Pembroke Center invited faculty from all fields to submit nominations, and faculty from fields as varied as International Relations, Psychology, Community Health, American Civilization, History, Development Studies, and English submitted impressive nominations. Damiano’s thesis advisor, Associate Professor Michael Vorenberg, wrote in his nomination letter, “After eight years at Brown, I can say for certain that this is the best undergraduate thesis that I have ever read. . . . Usually, if a thesis is superb, the writer will be advised by faculty to spend some of the next year trying to get a piece of it published as an article in a scholarly journal, but in Sara’s case, an even higher goal would be in order. I am confident that this work could be published as a book.” Damiano will be entering the Ph.D. program in History at Johns Hopkins University this fall where she will continue to study early American history and focus on topics related to women and gender. Damiano said upon receiving the prize, “When I first read about the Ruth Simmons Prize in September, I was encouraged by the University’s commitment to undergraduate research on women and gender. Nine months later, I was surprised and pleased to find out that my senior thesis had been selected for the inaugural year of this award. I have personally interacted with President Simmons many times as a member of student government, and I am especially honored to receive this award that she established to recognize research on women and gender.”

DID YOU KNOW ABOUT….?

Women in Hollywood: The Hollywood Reporter issued its annual Women in Entertainment Power 100 list. Included were: at #2, Co-chairman, Disney Media Networks and President, Disney-ABC Television Group Anne Sweeney P’12 (Los Angeles, CA); #17, President of NBC Universal Women and Lifestyle Entertainment Network Lauren Zalaznick ’84 (New York, NY); #66, BET Network Chairman and CEO Debra Lee ’76 (Washington, DC); #57, Endeavor Partner Nancy Josephson ’79 (Beverly Hills, CA); and #66, Comedy Central’s President of Original Programming and Development Lauren Corrao ’83 (Pasadena, CA). [The Hollywood Reporter, p. S24, 12/5/08]

WANT TO CONNECT WITH OTHERS….?

Check out Brown Clubs in your Neighborhood

Connect with fellow alumni in your neighborhood with over 80 regional Brown Clubs around the world. Visit http://alumni.brown.edu/community/clubs/index.html and get connected!

Join BRUnet, Brown's Career Network

(http://alumni.brown.edu/volunteer/career/index.html)

In today's challenging economy, BRUnet helps you make the most of your Brown network. Join today to share your expertise with alumni and students while expanding your professional network with more than 3,000 participating alumni.