On the morning of Saturday, March 18, 2006, Alison Klayman ’06 and Julia Liu ’06 screened their film, “Women’s Only” to a crowd of over one hundred people. “It was the culmination of all our work,” says Liu. “We got such wonderful feedback on the content as well as the presentation.”

The final film evolved greatly from its initial concept. Klayman explains that her mother was the first woman to graduate from Columbia in the 1970s, and she continued to blaze a trail as she became an oral surgeon at a time when few women had entered the profession. “I had always thought about creating a film of my mom’s story, but I started to think about Pembroke College and the first women students at Brown,” says Klayman. “I also thought a lot about what was happening at Brown when Pembroke College disappeared as its own entity in 1971.”

In the spring of 2004, Liu and Klayman applied for the highly coveted CV Starr National Service Fellowship through the Swearer Center for Public Service at Brown. In an unusual accomplishment, they both received a fellowship, which provided critical funding for them to get their film project off the ground. The Pembroke Center Associates also provided funding for the project.

Their initial idea was to create a film exploring the evolution of women’s space at Brown and its impact on the experiences of female students over the last forty years. They conducted interviews with Pembroke alumnae, and with the guidance of Gail Cohee, Director of the Sarah Doyle Women’s Center, they soon were interviewing a wide range of people for their project, including current Brown students, administrators and alumnae/i. The Sarah Doyle Women’s Center provided the filmmakers with space to record the interviews.

“What we found in our interviews with alumnae/i and students” says Liu, “is that people wanted to talk about their activism.” Through their interviews, they began to learn about a wide range of issues beyond women’s spaces at Brown. Although they had to leave hundreds of hours of film on the cutting room floor, they settled on three stories to tell in their film: the 1968 walkout, led by Black women of Pembroke College, a protest organized to secure a commitment from administrators to increase the number of Black students at Pembroke and Brown; the early 1990s controversy in which Brown women wrote the names of Brown men who allegedly had committed date rape on the bathroom walls of the Rockefeller Library; and, the contemporary movement to secure gender-neutral housing for transgender students.

“We deliberately chose not to use a narrator,” says Klayman. “We wanted these stories to be told in the words of our subjects, and to let the viewers draw their own conclusions. We also were not making this film to push one particular opinion. We wanted to provoke thought.”

“When we showed the film at the premiere,” says Liu, “we had three guests who had been interviewed for the film who spoke after the screening. We were so thrilled that they were impressed with the film, and more importantly, that they said we told their stories accurately.”
This academic year is the Pembroke Center’s twenty-fifth anniversary. As we mark the occasion, we especially celebrate the generations of students and young scholars who have been at the Center over the years: the many Women’s Studies and Gender Studies concentrators who have gone on to careers ranging from medicine to art; and the numerous postdoctoral fellows who, after a year in residence at the Center, have gone on to be leading scholars and teachers in their fields. The Center’s international reputation is based on many factors, but it is the people—the students, the faculty, the postdoctoral fellows and visiting scholars—who best carry on and disseminate its work.

This year’s research seminar on “Mediated Bodies” brings together a particularly dynamic group of people. The seminar explores the relationships between the body and technology across histories and cultures: relationships ranging from prostheses to cloning and reproductive technologies to media and interactive technologies of all sorts. The participants include faculty from Brown and other institutions, Pembroke postdoctoral fellows, and selected graduate and undergraduate students.

Three outstanding postdoctoral fellows whose research enriches this year’s seminar are:

### Jennifer Boyle
**Carol G. Lederer Postdoctoral Fellow**
After an undergraduate degree in physics, Boyle earned her Ph.D. in English from the University of California, Irvine. Her research looks at the ways early modern technologies, such as perspective, flourished at the boundaries of popular culture, aesthetics, and science in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Her work asks how these technologies helped shift modes of knowledge, concepts of will and agency, and representations of embodied perception and empowerment.

### Eden Osucha
**Nancy L. Buc Postdoctoral Fellow**
Osucha received her Ph.D. in English from Duke University. Her research examines the emergence and consolidation of the U.S. right to privacy, from nineteenth-century tort law to present-day constitutional doctrine. Specifically, she looks at an evolving cultural conception of privacy, which has been differentially applied across racial and sexual communities, in its particular relationship to the media. Osucha’s interests include cases involving the HIV/AIDS epidemic and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

### Alanna Thain
**Artemis A.W. and Martha Joukowsky Postdoctoral Fellow**
Alanna Thain earned her Ph.D. in Literature at Duke University. Her current research explores the intersections of the body and technology seen through the relationships of dance and film. Working from a background in film studies, Thain looks at dance compositions created for the camera as well as live dance performances that incorporate multimedia elements, focusing on encounters between the live dancing body and the media technologies.

As we move forward with our work and celebrations of the twenty-fifth anniversary, please know that your support is essential to the Pembroke Center’s success. Watch our website for special programs for the Associates: regional events in the Boston, New York City and Washington, D.C. areas; a Commencement Forum; and, a special reception on campus to mark the Center’s anniversary.

Elizabeth Weed, PhD ’73
Director
“There is a lot of student activism on campus right now,” Liu continues. “But it can become isolated when people focus only on their own issues. We hope this film can inform today’s students about past struggles.”

Klayman and Liu are hoping to have the film included in programs for first year students so they can learn about the issues and campus history discussed in the film. It was shown at the Ivy Film Festival and the “He She Ze” festival sponsored by Brown Hillel. In addition, the Open Student Television Network is interested in showing “Women’s Only” on their network for college students.

The Pembroke Associates recently gave Klayman and Liu a grant to help them print additional copies of the film for broader distribution. Their goal is to use the it as an educational tool and screen it to many more people. “People who have seen it say that telling these stories in film is powerful because it is such an accessible medium. These stories should not languish in an archive.”

What’s next for these enterprising filmmakers? Klayman and Liu are heading to China to develop their next film project. They are taking an open-ended approach and hope it evolves into something as powerful as “Women’s Only.”

If you would like more information about “Women’s Only” film, please e-mail Alison.Klayman@gmail.com to learn more.

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New Scholarship for Sophia Academy Endowed in Honor of Leadership for Change Award Recipient

Joan Wernig Sorensen ’72, P’06 and Paul Sorensen ’71, SCM’75, PHD’77, P’06, P’06 have established the first endowed scholarship at Sophia Academy in honor of Sophia’s executive director Mary Reilly, rsm. In April of this year, the Pembroke Center Associates presented Reilly with its award for Leadership for Change through Education. Sophia Academy is a non-profit, non-denominational middle school that serves girls from Providence’s low-income neighborhoods.

“What Sister Mary has done at Sophia Academy is wonderful,” said Joan Sorensen. Joan and her daughter, Alice Sorensen ’06, are both products of an all-girls education and are avid supporters of single sex education. “There is nothing like an all-girls school especially for those difficult middle school years,” said Sorensen. The endowed scholarship is designed especially for a scholar entering the fifth grade who shows exceptional promise. “Paul and I are fortunate to have financial resources for a good education for us and our children and this has inspired us to provide others with the same opportunities,” Sorensen added. “We hope this will encourage others to support the girls at Sophia Academy.”

For more information about Sophia Academy, please visit its website at www.sophiaprov.org.

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Save the Dates!

Pembroke Poetry Prize Reading
November 15, 2006, 7 p.m.
The Hourglass Café at The Underground, Faunce House Brown University

The Pembroke Associates and Brown Hillel co-sponsored a poetry contest for Brown and RISD students this fall. Judged by Dr. Henny Wenkart ’49, the contest received over ninety entries. Poems were submitted on women’s themes, Jewish themes and for a grand prize category that could be on any theme. Wenkart and the contest winners will read at the November 15th event. Reception to follow.

What Does Repsonsibility Feel Like? —
A Talk with Prof. Ravit Reichman
November 30, 2006, 7 p.m. Hosted by Ulle Holt ’66 at her home in Wellesley Hills, MA

Learn about the latest programs of the Pembroke Center and participate in a lively conversation with Assistant Professor of English, Ravit Reichman. Professor Reichman will talk about her forthcoming book, The Affective Life of Law: Postwar Justice and the Literary Imagination, which examines responses to trauma and war in fictional and legal texts. The notion of “doing justice” on a large scale after World War I was rarely accomplished through courts of law, figuring more often as social or military justice. Following World War II, however, historic trials — among them, the Nuremberg and Eichmann trials — came to dominate a broader, international sense of postwar justice. The discussion will focus on Hannah Arendt’s Eichmann in Jerusalem, exploring the ethical and legal implications of the Eichmann trial beyond Arendt’s famous notion of “the banality of evil.”

For more information about either event, please visit the Pembroke Center’s website at www.pembrokecenter.org or call (401) 863-3650.
Before women attended Brown, even before women enrolled at Pembroke, women attended the Women’s College in Brown University. It was from there that Beatrice Coleman, now an energetic 102 year old, graduated in 1925.

Coleman was born on April 20, 1904 and, but for several periods teaching out of state, has lived in Providence her whole life. Recently, she found time in her active schedule to sit down and talk with Jane Lancaster, PhD ’98, consultant to the Christine Dunlap Farnham Archives.

The daughter and only child of an “errand girl for Abby Child, a local dressmaker,” knowing little of her father, Beatrice Coleman was raised by her grandfather, a watchman, and her grandmother, a practical nurse and midwife. Coleman graduated from Hope High School and then the Women’s College at Brown. She had hoped to go to Howard University but her mother said she was crazy and that they couldn’t afford to send her all the way down there.

At the Women’s College, Coleman majored in Latin. She remembers that there were three other “colored girls,” as she put it, in her class, and she thinks there were three more in the class above. She remembers Thelma Garland from Washington, Charlotte West from Baltimore, and Francis Waring, who came from Baltimore but who died while she was in college. She was particularly friendly with Marguerite Lingham, also from Providence, and remembers Violet Warfield, whose father was a doctor and head of the Freedman’s Hospital in Washington, D.C.

Students of color were not allowed to live in the dorms, Coleman recalled; they had to “lodge with colored families in town.” One student, she remembers, lived with William Heathman, a black attorney. Beatrice lived at home on Olney Street and walked to Pembroke Hall for her classes. She says that the colored girls were not encouraged to take part in any college activities except sports. She says, “I didn’t belong to any of the clubs — in fact I guess they didn’t want us, wouldn’t take us you know. Even the Northern white people — they were almost as prejudiced as the South.” And then with a laugh, she says she was very proud to belong to Alpha Kappa Alpha, the black sorority and that she is still a member. She recalled Ethel Robinson, perhaps the first black graduate of the Women’s College, being instrumental in founding the chapter.

When asked about life after college, and if she had ever married, she exclaimed, “Oh, my God, no! I like to have my way, do what I want to do, when I want to do. I was spoiled!” She only left Providence after graduation in order to teach. At that time, she says, people of color were not employed in Providence Public Schools.

She taught in North Carolina and Pennsylvania, always returning to Providence for the summers. She explained how the teaching profession was desegregated. “Lawyer Heathman and Lawyer Sackett got together and they found out all the money that the colored people paid in taxation and on property and (said) if they didn’t put a colored teacher here and let them go to the Normal School they were going to take it to the Supreme Court.”

Jane Lancaster asked a final question of Coleman, who was off to have lunch with friends and participate in activities at Tockwotton, the assisted living home where she resides. What did she get out of education at Brown? Beatrice Coleman laughed and said, “A chance to earn a living, and that was the most important. I didn’t want to cook, wash, iron and wait on white folks.” And it seems she got her wish.
Pembroke Class of 1956 Dedicates Garden and Makes Special Gift to the Associates

There is a gorgeous new space on the Pembroke Green for the Brown community’s enjoyment. The Pembroke Class of 1956 used invested funds from the class treasury, dating back to 1978, to dedicate a lovely garden tucked beneath a tree near Smith Buonanno Hall. As part of the project, the class funded needed repairs to an adjacent walkway and stairway. The garden itself includes beautiful landscaping, a bench and a stone marker that reads:

A PLACE FOR FOND REMEMBRANCE
AND QUIET REFLECTION

Dedicated by the
PEMBROKE CLASS OF 1956
On the occasion of their 50th reunion
May 2006

As an added act of generosity, the class made a special gift of $2000 to the Pembroke Center Associates to support the programs of the Pembroke Center. We are enormously grateful for their hard work to beautify the Pembroke Green and support the Center.

Pembroke Center Welcomes New Manager

The Pembroke Center is pleased to announce that Donna Goodnow P’07 has accepted the position of Center Manager. Prior to joining the Pembroke Center staff, Goodnow served as coordinator for Brown’s Center for Biomedical Ethics, where she managed the undergraduate course, “Hard Choices,” and coordinated ethics education and special events, including the annual Harriet W. Sheridan Literature and Medicine Lectureship and Forum.

Goodnow’s daughter Jennifer is a member of Brown’s Class of 2007. She is studying to be a biology teacher through Brown’s Undergraduate Teacher Education Program. Goodnow’s son David is in his first year of study at the University of Rhode Island’s College of Pharmacy.

“I am thrilled to be at the Pembroke Center,” said Goodnow. “I am enjoying working with the many faculty, students, postdoctoral fellows, and alumnae/i who are involved with the Center’s programs.”
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