

Board of Managers 2020-2021

President – Karen Rubin
Vice President – Patsy Aronstein
Recording Secretary – Lisa Bonwell
Treasurer – Lyrae Williams
Assistant Treasurer – Catherine Tobin
Board Members:
Judy De Groot Debra Wynn
Amy Dounay Cindi Zenkert-Strange
Tess Powers
Kelley Riggs
Judy Sondermann

The Woman’s Educational Society Scholars 2020-2021

Seniors, Class of 2021

Melissa Manuel	Homestead, Florida
Laila Marshall	Seattle, Washington
Maeve O’Meara	Norman, Oklahoma
Grace Pantalone	Peoria, Arizona
Emileigh Grace Rafidi	Fullerton, California

Juniors, Class of 2022

Sakina Bhatti	Kansas City, Missouri
Dylan Hall	Buffalo, New York
Allya John	Brooklyn, New York
Jennifer Lam	Aurora, Colorado
Tiffany McBride	Snellville, Georgia

Sophomores, Class of 2023

Tamar Crump	St. Louis, Missouri
Rikki Held	Broadus, Montana
Sarah Higgins	Columbia, Missouri
Gabriella Morales	Beaufort, South Carolina
Clara Sato	Madison, Wisconsin

First Year – Class of 2024

Avery Colborn	Ojai, California
Magdalene (Mags) Gonzales	San Antonio, Texas
Julia Nichols	St. Paul, Minnesota
Annabelle Sparks	Asheville, North Carolina
Graziella Pierangeli	Edwards, Colorado
Olivia Xerras	Charlotte, North Carolina

THE WOMAN’S EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY (WES) of Colorado College 2020-2021

Annual Report of the President

132nd Annual Meeting
April 27, 2021

To all members and friends:

This report summarizes the activities of the committees and officers of the WES Board of Managers.

STATE OF THE ORGANIZATION

Membership Statistics as of December 31, 2020

Dues-Paying Members.....	85
Lifetime and Silver Special Members.....	79
Honorary and ex-Officio Members.....	3
Additional Database Contacts.....	206

TOTAL.....373

Note: Due to COVID 19, some members were slow to renew and have since paid their 2020 dues. As with many organizations, WES did experience a higher number of non-renews in 2020 than in years past.

Board of Managers accounts as of December 31, 2020

Operating Fund	\$5,212 .01
Scholarships – Fundraising.....	\$6,907.73

Please see Lyrae’s Finance Committee Report regarding specific funds that were previously listed as separate accounts.

Market Value of the Endowment as of December 31, 2020

Composed of the WES Irrevocable Trust and the WES Revocable Trust the Cook, Hinch, Campbell, Stone, General Scholarship, Rising Scholar and Operating Funds.....	\$6,507,537
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2020-2021 Scholarship funds allocated to 21 scholars \$186,900

PROGRAMS FOR THE YEAR

July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

August 6, 2020	New Scholar Meet & Greet (Virtual)
September 24, 2020	Antarctica Expedition (Virtual) Featuring Professor Christine Siddoway
October 22, 2020	Virtual Tea
December 9, 2020	Cookie Summit (Virtual)
January 28, 2021	Racial Equality Forum (Virtual)
March 13, 2021	Zoom at the Zoo (Virtual)
April 27, 2021	Annual Meeting (Virtual)

Please see more detailed descriptions below.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Karen Rubin

This has been an incredible and unforgettable year, while in the midst of a pandemic. I became President of WES July 1, 2020. We were four months into COVID with all the fear, anxiety, lockdowns, and restrictions. Everybody was reeling from the terrible impact on our lives in every way! Every day in the news, we were seeing and hearing about the rising number of COVID cases, hospitalizations, and deaths. We were trying to stay safe and healthy.

On the CC Campus, and everywhere as well, it was so sad that in May, seniors couldn't have an in-person graduation ceremony. Then they found out, in August, when most classes begin at colleges and universities, only very few students were allowed on campus. All classes became virtual and all activities were cancelled. But, because of our determination, WES survived and kept going!

In order to continue to honor our mission of providing financial aid and mentorship to our scholars, even during dire times, we had to adapt and be creative and resilient and do everything in a reimagined way. Since we couldn't meet in-person or go on campus, our new "best friend" was Zooming online and we continued our Board of Manager meetings and events all virtually via Zoom. (See list of year's events).

It was a very difficult year for our CC students; everything they loved and held dear to them was gone...and they were gone too! We didn't get to enjoy the camaraderie and close friendships that have been our hallmark since the founding of WES. First Year students and Seniors only came back to campus January, 2021, and even then (and now) classes are held sometimes in-person, sometimes virtual, and sometimes a hybrid of both. Our WES Scholars have been strong, flexible, and innovative and continue to impress us. They are wonderful young women and we are so proud of their strength in adversity, tenacity, and their many accomplishments under stressful circumstances.

It has been a privilege and honor to be President of WES. I want to thank the entire Board of Managers for their embracing and steadfast devotion to our mission. Thank you for your support and perseverance that you have provided to our scholars, membership, and to me! Your continuing dedication and love for WES has touched me deeply.

We remain strong and committed to our mission. We will go forward into this year with continuing creativity, energy, enthusiasm, and positivity. Thank you for having me serve you as president.

WES Scholarship Committee

Chair: Judy De Groot

Members: Lisa Bonwell, Amy Dounay, Sharon Grady (Member-At-Large), Tess Powers, Debbie Wynn, Karen Rubin (Ex-Officio),

WES Scholars via primarily ZOOM interactions and email messages due to the inability to have in person interaction with the WES Scholars. The following activities took place during the 2020-2021 fiscal year:

1. In conjunction with the CC Financial Aid Department, selected and notified six (6) new WES Scholars as well as recruitment and assignment of mentors. Due to COVID we were unable to meet in person and thus relied heavily on advice from the Financial Department to chose the six WES Scholars
2. Provided photos and biography for each of the 6 new WES Scholars for the summer 2020 WES Newsfocus and for the WES web page.
3. In conjunction with the Program Committee planned and hosted the August 6, 2020 Meet and Greet via a Zoom Meeting. All 6 of the scholars attended along with several parents and WES Board Members.
4. In conjunction with the Program Committee, a virtual WES tea was held via ZOOM on October 22, 2020. See the Program Committee report for additional information.
5. In November, the Scholarship Committee recommended that WES establish a Rising Scholar Award and the BOM approved this award. This will be an annual award for one to two WES Scholars to provide up to \$5000 per student to cover summer living expenses who are accepted into an unpaid or underpaid internship or to assist with an academic research project.
6. In conjunction with the Program Committee, a virtual WES Cookie Exchange was held December 9, 2020. All WES Scholars received a Holiday cookie box from Cheryl's Cookies. See the Program Committee report for additional information.

7. February 2021, an email was sent to all of the WES Scholars inviting them to apply for the Spring 2021 Special Purpose Grant and the Rising Scholar Award with a application due date of March 1, 2021
8. March 11, 2021 the Scholarship Committee reviewed applications for the Spring 2021 Special Purpose Grant and for the Rising Scholar Award. The following WES Scholars applications were approved:
 - a. Grace Pantalone received the Spring 2021 Special Purpose Grant too help cover the costs of participating in a training program through House of Dog in Colorado Springs as part of the process of having her dog, Jess, certified as a therapy dog. Grace has majored in social work and plans of receiving her MSW.
 - b. Gabriella Morales was awarded the Rising Scholar Award that will be used for a "CC in Latin America" experience sponsored by the Spanish and Portuguese Department in the fall of 2021.
 - c. Sakina Bhatti was awarded the Rising Scholar Award for an unpaid virtual summer internship with the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice. Sakina plans to become a Human Rights Lawyer.
9. WES will welcome 5 new Scholars for the class of 2025 and will be working with the CC Financial Aid department to identify qualifying woman students.

Finance Committee

Chair: Lyrae Williams (Chair/Treasurer)

Assistant Treasurer: Catherine Tobin

Members: Dottie Rue (CC Representative), Amy Doumay, Tess Powers, Judy De Groot, Karen Rubin (Ex-Officio)

The Finance Committee evaluates the operating budget, monitors the endowment and determines funding available for scholarships. Since the 1990s, John W. Bristol and Company has managed the WES endowment. As of December 31, 2020, it was valued at \$6,507,537, up nearly 16% from 2019.

The Board of Managers' goal is to provide scholars no less than 10% of the total cost of attending Colorado College. For academic year 2021-22, the scholarship will be \$9,100. This amount is 12.0% of Colorado College's cost of attendance. The total annual scholarship commitment for 21 students will be \$191,100.

In August 2020, the Board of Managers approved the creation of a new opportunity for scholars - the Rising Scholar Program. This new program will provide two awards each year for either an internship or special project/research with a Colorado College faculty member. The award is up to \$5000 for either a rising junior or rising senior. Scholars are required to apply for the program via an application, which is reviewed by the Scholarship Committee. The first award is being made summer2021.

The new program is being funded from the growth of the endowment and the decision by the Board of Managers to invest cash funds held at the local bank into the WES Endowment. The cash funds were previously labeled as the Bryson, Sponsorship, Gifts to CC and Stoller Fund; all of which were originally funded from the general scholarship/fund raising fund. These funds along with accumulated general scholarship/fund raising funds allowed WES to invest \$55,000 into the WES endowment for the new program. This investment into the WES endowment does not impact the annual commitment WES makes to one senior to receive the Marianne Stoller Award (\$1000) and the \$5000 a year of special projects grants awarded to scholars in honor of Dorothy Bryson.

In addition to the \$55,000 invested in the WES Endowment, the Board of Managers also approved depositing the \$25,000 estate gift from Jean A Keeley into the WES Endowment to establish an ongoing resource for WES programming. For the 2021-22 year, the new endowment will provide \$1,100 for the board to use for programs. This fund, which will be held in perpetuity, will grow overtime, increasing the annual income for the board and helping to stabilize the annual operating fund.

Last year, WES announced that it was planning to increase the number of new scholars a year by one until it reached 24 scholars. In August 2020, the Board of Managers decided to prioritize expanding opportunities to the existing 21 scholars with the creation of the Rising Scholar Program and hold off expanding the total number of scholars. The pandemic continues to create uncertainty in the world and has impacted WES's ability to hold fundraising and other in-person events. The Board will reconsider adding more scholars when the environment and financial forecasts are more positive and stable.

WES's members and friends continue to make the work of WES and our impact on the scholars possible through their continued support and generous gifts. All contributions make a difference...Thank you!
***In light of the Covid-19 ongoing crisis, the Finance Committee along with its liaison to Colorado College continue to monitor the impact the crisis is having on the financial market, the WES Endowment and overall giving to WES.*

Membership Committee

Chair: Cindi Zenkert-Strange

Members: Patsy Aronstein (Ex-Officio), Kelley Riggs, Debra Wynn

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Judy Kanagy, a CC staff member is doing a great job maintaining the database. She added a couple new tabs in order to provide better organization to the database.

Tax acknowledgment letters were mailed in January 2021.

Membership Committee Annual Report

Chair: Cindi Zenkert-Strange

Members: Patsy Aronstein, Debbie Wynn, Kelley Riggs

Ex-Officio: Karen Rubin

WES, like most nonprofit organizations, faced unprecedented challenges as we began this membership year, locked down due to COVID 19, and unsure of what lay ahead.

- Despite our inability to meet in person, the Membership Committee had identified increasing outgoing contact with both members and nonmembers as critical to future growth
 - A key strategy for doing so was instituted by the Program Committee in the form of a monthly newsletter.
 - We adopted a strategy of responding immediately to all donations (including payment of annual dues) with an acknowledgment from WES, and provided a template email, to be deployed by the WES treasurer. Significant donations are

- We pioneered the use of Eventbrite to advertise events open to the public to the greater community. This also created a modest, additional revenue stream
- We determined that when we were able to meet in person, the Membership Committee would commit to have a membership table at each WES event...and potentially at Colorado College events, such as Homecoming. This remains to be implemented.

- In response to ongoing operating expense challenges, the Membership Committee recommended that the Board raise our extremely modest annual dues from \$30 to \$50 annually.
 - In conjunction with this proposal, the Board also considered several other recommendations, including that the membership year (previously Jan.-Dec) be changed to synch with the WES fiscal year (July-June) and that we front-load dues payments to the start of the membership year (July) rather than continuing with the status quo (with some dues paid starting in January (but with 2/3 of membership paying dues in Nov/Dec.)
 - Each of these changes were approved by the Board of Managers
 - To transition from the old membership year of January-December, to July-June, and in acknowledgment of the many challenges COVID 19 was posing for the Board members, and WES' inability to provide in-person benefits to our members during this time, the Board approved a plan to have membership dues paid for the 2019-2020 year extend through June,2021 at no additional charge Dues for new membership year July 2021-June 2022 will now be payable in July 2021.
 - Membership was apprised of this change through the WES newsletter and through annual letters that went out to all members in early November 2020
 - All members will receive a dues renewal notice in June 2021, indicating that annual dues of \$50 are due, effective July 2021.
 - The Membership Committee will also plan to send letters in November 2022 to all members soliciting year-end donations.
- In early December 2020, each WES member received a letter thanking them for previous donations, or acknowledging their lifetime or silver special membership status, or reminding that 2019-2020 dues were due.
- In January 2021, each regular member /lifetime or silver special member/other donor was sent a record of their 2020 donations for tax purposes
- The Membership Committee would like to recognize the contributions of our Treasurer and Colorado College staff in coordinating donor recognition, annual membership dues mailings and January donor acknowledgment mailings for tax purposes.
- The Membership Committee would also like to recognize the Program Committee for their ongoing efforts to offer a broader variety of programs to engage both scholars, members and nonmembers

Nominating Committee

Chair: Patsy Aronstein

Members: Cindi Zenkert-Strange, Kelley Riggs, Judy Casey (Member-at- Large), Ann Burek (Member-at-Large)

The Nominating Committee had a rather quiet year due primarily to COVID-19. WES was so preoccupied with pivoting to virtual connections that our focus was much more on making it through the year without losing touch with our current members. As a result, we did not add any new members to our Board of Managers. Our Board does need to grow, and we hope that with a more normal year coming, we will again be able to turn our focus to expanding and developing our Board membership. We always welcome your suggestions and hope that you will be in touch if you'd like to serve as a Board member.

Program Committee

Co-Chairs: Patsy Aronstein, Cindy Zenkert-Strange

Members: Lisa Bonwell, Debra Wynn, Judy Sondermann, Karen Rubin – Ex-Officio

The fiscal year 2020-2021 proved to be a challenging one for all. All WES events needed to be virtual due to the COVID-19 restrictions. With the shutdown of Colorado College's campus in March of 2020, Program Committee's planning needed to change and for much longer than we had expected. The Zoom format became our means of communication and connection over the course of the year. From informal gatherings such as the Zoom at the Zoo to serious lectures focusing on social injustice, the WES Program Committee sought to continue offering intellectually engaging and fun programs to our membership and scholars. We made efforts to reach out to a broader community by taking advantage of another web event promotor, Eventbrite.

WES is grateful for the positive partnership we maintain with Colorado College, both for the needed technical support and the deep well of expertise that professors and administrators alike provided us this year. The development of a monthly Newsletter helped us connect with members in a personal way and was our means of sharing news about how our scholars and members, past and present, were navigating this challenging year. We look forward to being able to meet in-person again soon. One silver lining to COVID, however, has been that Zoom has allowed us to connect with members outside of the Front Range, and we think that is an important piece to maintain in the future.

AUGUST 6, 2020—MEET AND GREET

With COVID-19 restrictions in place on the Colorado College campus, WES hosted its Meet and Greet virtually. First Year Scholars, their families and mentors met online for the first time. The Zoom meeting was a first for WES and given the situation, proved to be an excellent way to spend some time getting to know our new scholars and their families.

SEPTEMBER 24, 2020—ANTARCTICA EXPEDITION

WES hosted its first virtual event, featuring Colorado College professor of Geology, Christine Siddoway. Siddoway spoke about her experiences and work aboard the research vessel, *The Joides Resolution*, in the waters off Antarctica. We offered this event through Eventbrite and with the assistance of the CC technology department speaker, students, WES members and community members were able to join together virtually for the talk and question/answer session. Siddoway delivered a lively and in-depth talk, highlighted by polls and a hearty Q and A. Attendees were encouraged to make themselves an ice-themed cocktail to further enjoy the event.

OCTOBER 22, 2020—VIRTUAL TEA

While we were not able to share tea and sweets as usual, we were treated to a virtual tour of The Spencer House where the tea traditionally takes place. Board member, Cindi Zenkert-Strange walked us through a fascinating history of the house, sharing stories of its many celebrated guests and the fine points of its architectural and décor heritage. Cindi's talk was followed by introductions of our new WES scholars and then attendees were all placed in break-out rooms to be able to chat in smaller groups. It was a delightful afternoon Zoom and gave encouragement that we could pivot to meaningful engagement with our scholars and the WES community during this difficult time.

DECEMBER 9, 2020—COOKIE SUMMIT!

We had an informal gathering of scholars and members for a virtual cookie exchange. Board members, scholars and members shared cookie recipes from their holiday traditions. Among the cookie traditions shared virtually, were Scottish, Norwegian, French and Pakistani sweets. Recipes were compiled in a book that was shared with attendees. News of our Rising Scholar Award was shared with scholars. While not as savory as a true cookie exchange, it was an opportunity to see one another before scholars headed home for winter break.

JANUARY 28, 2021—RACIAL EQUALITY FORUM

Race relations were at the fore of this engaging Zoom evening featuring, Civil Rights Attorney, Mari Newman, and Colorado College Professor of Political Science, Doug Edlin. Ms. Newman spoke about her work in the Civil Rights arena, and shared perspective on what needs to be done to advance inclusion and tear down long-standing barriers to equal rights for marginalized citizens. Professor Edlin moderated a substantive Q and A session for attendees that included students and faculty at Colorado College, community and WES members. This event was also advertised through Eventbrite.

MARCH 13, 2021---ZOOM AT THE ZOO

WES hosted a fun evening at the zoo virtually. Attendees were treated to a light-hearted video tour through the zoo, featuring giraffes, tigers, and warhogs among other 4 leggeds. WES board members and Cheyenne Mountain Zoo docents, Judy DeGroot and Judy Sonderman provided fascinating commentary on the care and feeding of these animals, as well as some history of the Zoo itself. It was a fun and feel-good evening---a wonderful conclusion to our year's programming during such a challenging year.

APRIL 27, 2021---ANNUAL MEETING

WES' Annual Meeting will take place via Zoom this year. We will hear from Senior scholars, recounting their experiences during their time at CC. President Karen Rubin will share a summary of WES' accomplishments during this difficult year and present a slate of officers for 2021-2022 that will be voted on by the membership. We hope to be together in-person next year.

**SLATE OF OFFICERS TO BE APPROVED AT THE MAY WES
BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING:**

PRESIDENT: PATSY ARONSTEIN

VICE PRESIDENT: KELLEY RIGGS

RECORDING SECRETARY: LISA BONWELL

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: JUDY DE GROOT

TREASURER: LYRAE WILLIAMS

ASSISTANT TREASURER: CATHERINE TOBIN

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