

The Woman's Educational Society

of Colorado College

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

SLATE OF OFFICERS TO BE APPROVED AT THE WES BOARD OF MANAGERS
MEETING IN APRIL

PRESIDENT: LISA BONWELL

VICE PRESIDENT: TESS POWERS

RECORDING SECRETARY: KENDRA WUERTH

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: KAREN RUBIN

TREASURER: CONNIE RICKARD

International Women's Day

WES was once again a sponsor of this year's event, sending two representatives to assist with planning and execution. Several board members and WES members attended the event.

Hall of Fame Induction

WES's founder, Mary Goodale Slocum, was inducted into the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame, with board member Cindi Zenkert-Strange accepting the award on behalf of WES, and other board members in attendance. This is a huge honor, acknowledging the impact of Mary's vision, and the subsequent contributions of WES over 134 years.

Annual Meeting and Luncheon

A return to a time-honored tradition, we meet in person at Taste Restaurant in the Fine Arts Center, to hear graduating scholars present the highlights of their time at CC as WES scholars.

Scholarship Committee

Co-Chairs: Judy DeGroot, Debbie Wynn

Members: Tess Powers, Tomi-Ann Roberts, Lindsay Jimenez

Highlights of the year:

- Selection of and notification to five new WES scholars and assignment of board mentors.
- Provided photos and biographies for the *WES Inside Look* newsletter and the WES website.
- Goodie bags were prepared and distributed to the scholars each semester.
- The December holiday Cookie Exchange was planned and well attended by scholars and mentors.
- Disseminated WES Special Grant and Rising Scholar Award applications and information, reviews and selected recipients.

- Tamar Crump – Special Purpose Grant to study traditional pottery in Costa Rica
- Camila Espinosa-Short – Special Purpose Grant to attend course "Grassroots Resistance in Latin America"
- Annabelle Sparks – Special Purpose Grant to take course "Wilderness First Responders"
- Invited scholars to the Annual Meeting and Luncheon and encouraged their attendance. Advised graduating scholars in their preparation for presentations at the event.
- Working with the financial aid department, WES will welcome 6 new scholars to the class of 2027.

THE WOMAN'S EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY (WES) of Colorado College

Annual Report of the President

**134th Annual Meeting
April 17, 2023**

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, 2022

Dues-Paying Members.....	52
Lifetime and Silver Special Members.....	79
Honorary and Ex-Officio Members.....	3
Additional Database Contacts.....	206
TOTAL.....	340

Note: As WES was able to return to a full schedule of in-person events this year, we hope and anticipate that membership will increase in the coming year.

Board of Managers accounts as of December 31, 2022

Operating Fund.....	\$29,254.67
Sarah Healy Initiative.....	\$11,197.72

Scholarships – Fundraising.....\$12,086.01

Market Value of the Endowment as of December 31, 2023

Composed of the WES Irrevocable Trust and the WES
Revocable Trust, the Cook, Hinch, Campbell, Stone,
General Scholarship, Rising Scholar, and Operating
Funds.....\$6,055,301

2022-2023 Scholarship funds allocated to 21 scholars.....\$207,900

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This year we have been so pleased to return to our full slate of annual WES events and activities in person, and on campus. It has been such a pleasure to see our membership and community friends face-to-face, and to be able to introduce them to our remarkable group of scholars.

A highlight of this year has been the induction of our founder, Mary Goodale Slocum, into the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame. This was a well-deserved honor; very few organizations can trace their history back continuously for 134 years, yet Mary's vision has endured for more than a century. The list of WES projects over that time period is striking in its depth and constancy. We see the impact of WES's support today in the presentations from graduating seniors each year, and in the interviews with graduated scholars in the WES newsletter.

Through the Leadership Pikes Peak Get on Board event, we added two new board members this year, and the current board has a wonderful range of experience and background. WES was also a sponsor of the Colorado Springs International Women's Day event, and had a table to offer membership information at that event with our newly updated brochure.

As a former WES scholar, I have been so honored by the opportunity to serve as President this year. The WES scholarship and the support of the WES members and board made a lasting impact in my life. I became and remained a member through moves to many other states over many years, with the goal of giving the same support to the scholars who have followed me. Being able to be a part of the board and to engage with today's WES scholars has brought this experience full circle, and has been immensely satisfying. The support you give as WES members matters, and we appreciate you!

Kelley Riggs, President, WES Board of Managers

Program Committee

Co-Chairs: Karen Rubin, Victoria Webb

Members: Patsy Aronstein, Emily Dean Kim

WES has been grateful to be hosting events in person on the CC campus throughout this year, with CC offering us six opportunities per year, and assistance from a CC event liaison.

Meet and Greet

In August, WES hosted a Zoom opportunity for 1st year scholars (and parents) to meet board members and each other before they arrived on campus. Scholars introduced themselves, and got to meet their board mentors, while learning a bit about WES history.

Scholar/Board Welcome Picnic

In September, the board hosted a casual catered picnic with the whole scholar group in the lovely home and backyard of board member Judy Sondermann. The Jamaican themed food was a highlight, and gave the older scholars a chance to help the board welcome the new class, and to catch up with each other after the summer break.

Annual Fall Tea

This longtime Fall event was back in the beautiful Stewart House this year, a decades-long tradition. With a background of live harp music, members and scholars enjoyed refreshments while connecting with each other after the long absence of Covid. New scholars were introduced, and got to meet the larger membership for the first time.

Scholar Cookie Exchange

The board hosted a scholar lunch and cookie exchange at Cossitt hall on the CC campus. Scholars decorated sugar cookies and took home a selection of cookies made by board members, to enjoy during final exams and winter break.

Scholar Pizza Party

The WES board provided pizza for a scholars-only pizza part at the home of WES scholar Annabelle Sparks. Time together helps the scholar group to bond and get to know each other across classes.

Jeri Norgren Book Event

Author Jeri Norgren presented excerpts from her book "Colorado's Highest: The History of Naming the 14,000 Foot Peaks". Held in the Bemis Hall great room, attendees enjoyed heavy hors d'oeuvres, beer, and wine while catching up with members and friends from the community.

BOARD OF MANAGERS

President: Kelley Riggs

Vice President: Lisa Bonwell

Treasurer: Connie Rickard

Corresponding Secretary: Karen Rubin

Board Members:

Patsy Aronstein	Tomi-Ann Roberts
Judy DeGroot	Judy Sondermann
Lindsay Jimenez	Victoria Webb
Barb Keener	Kendra Wuerth
Emily Dean Kim	Debbie Wynn
Tess Powers	Cindi Zenkert-Strange

Scholar Members:

Annabelle Sparks
Roxy Reisch

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

August 17, 2022 New Scholar Meet & Greet (virtual)

September 14, 2022 Scholar/Mentor picnic at the home of Judy Sondermann

November 9, 2022 WES Annual Tea at CC's Stewart House

December 5, 2022 Cookie Exchange at Cossitt Hall

February 7, 2023 Board-sponsored scholars-only Pizza Party

February 9, 2023 Jeri Norgren Book Talk at Bemis Hall great room

March 4, 2023 International Women's Day of which WES is a sponsor

March 15, 2023 Induction of founder Mary Goodale Slocum into the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame

April 17, 2023 The WES Annual Meeting & Luncheon

Membership Committee

Chair: Kelley Riggs

Members: Cindi Zenkert-Strange, Kendra Wuerth

Database Manager: Kelley Riggs

Membership statistics (as of December 31, 2022):

Paid Members.....	52
Lifetime/Silver Special Members.....	79
Honorary/Ex officio members.....	3
Additional database contacts.....	206
Total.....	340

- This year the Membership committee, with input from other board members, updated the WES brochure with current photos and events. The new brochure also reflects the current fiscal year of July 1 to June 30, and the current membership pricing.
- Membership committee members staffed tables at CC Homecoming this year, as well as at International Women's Day, of which WES is a sponsor. Both were great opportunities to make WES better known in the community and attract new members.
- The committee attended the Leadership Pikes Peak 'Get on Board' event in May, recruiting two new board members.

- Graduating seniors from 2021 were gifted a free 3-year membership in WES, and will be offered a discounted membership for the following two years, as a way to keep them connected to WES as they establish their careers.
- Emails to former scholars have been sent to create stronger connections with them, in the hope of recruiting more former scholars to WES membership.
- WES has maintained a monthly online newsletter, the *WES Inside Look*, which keeps members and contacts up to date on scholar activities, board members and processes, and upcoming events. As a replacement for the snail-mail *News Focus*, it has offered the chance for more frequent contact with members and supporters, while conserving operating funds.
- Tax receipts are also sent by email, and are sent as renewals and donations arrive, rather than at the end of the year. Using email for these receipts is another way to conserve operating funds.
- We are currently updating the WES website to add current content and create a more engaging platform.

The Woman's Educational Society Scholars 2022-2023

Seniors, Class of 2023

Avery Colburn	Ojai, California
Mei Ji Fong	Federal Way, Washington
Rikki Held	Broadus, Montana
Sarah Higgins	Columbia, Missouri

Junior Class of 2024

Tamar Crump	Saint Louis, Missouri
Magdalene Gonzales	San Antonio, Texas (graduating 2023)
Gabriella MoralesBeaufort,	South Carolina
Julia Nichols	Saint Paul, Minnesota
Annabelle Sparks Asheville,	North Carolina (graduating 2023)
Emmie Weprin	Denver, Colorado
Olivia Xerras	Charlotte, North Carolina

Second Year Class of 2025

Alana Ermeus	Jackson, New Jersey
Camila Espinosa-Short	Denver, Colorado
Meena Kim	Centennial, Colorado
Aidan Reidy	Denver, Colorado
Roxana Reisch	Rochester, New York

First Year Class of 2026

Francis Curtis	Louisville, Kentucky
Elise Evans	Woodinville, Washington
Jack Hill	Seattle, Washington
Taylor Jenkins	Honolulu, Hawaii
Rebecca Walters	Commerce City, Colorado

Finance Committee

Chair: Connie M. Rickard (Chair/Treasurer)

Members: Jessica Grzywa (CC Representative), Patsy Aronstein, Kelley Riggs, Lisa Bonwell, and Victoria Webb

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, 2022, it was valued at \$6,055,301, down over 16% from December 31, 2021.

The Board of Managers' goal is to provide scholars no less than 10% (in 2022-2023 the Board awarded scholarships at 12.5%) of the total cost of attending Colorado College. For academic year 2023-2024, the scholarship will be \$10,400. This amount is again at 12.5% of Colorado College's cost of attendance. The total annual scholarship commitment for 20 students will be \$208,000. The number of scholars in total is 1 less than the previous year but the Board is awarding scholarships 6 new incoming students. WES had two juniors graduate early, resulting in one less in total.

In December 2022, WES received another large donation that was unrestricted and has been set aside in an interest-bearing account. The Board is still working on

establishing a program to honor Sarah Healy. The funds continue to grow as interest rates have risen substantially since last year.

Markets in 2022 were very challenging with the Federal Reserve trying to get rising inflation under control by raising interest rate from 4.25% in 2022. Ongoing rate hikes in 2023 is driving volatility. The Finance Committee along with its liaison to Colorado College continue to monitor the financial impact on the market, the WES endowment and overall giving to WES.

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!

Nominating Committee

Chair: Karen Rubin

This year WES has added two members to the board, and we hope to add more at this year's Get on Board event. If you are interested in participating on the board or a committee, we'd love to have you! Please contact us at WES@coloradocollege.edu.