

Board of Managers 2019 - 2020

President – Judy De Groot
 Vice President – Karen Rubin
 Recording Secretary – Sharon Grady
 Corresponding Secretary – Judith Light
 Treasurer – Lyrae Willians
 Assistant Treasurer – Monique Michaud

Board Members:

Brittany Almeida	Judith Light
Patsy Aronstein	Lisa Bonwell
Carolyn Dickerson	Pamela Fickes-Miller
Amy Dounay	Karen Henderson
Jeri Peterson	Tess Powers
Kelley Riggs	Cindi Zenkert-Strange
Debra Wynn	Judy Sondermann

The Woman’s Educational Society Scholars 2019 – 2020

Senior, Class of 2020

Cinea Jenkins	Ft. Lupton, Colorado
Valeria Peralta	Miami, Florida
Jessica Ramos	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Kristie Shirley	Lake Worth, Florida
Madeline Tucker	Missoula, Montana

Junior, 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

Sophomore, 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

Freshman, Class of 2023

Tamar Crump	Maplewood, Missouri
Rikki Held	Billings, Montana
Sarah Higgins	Columbia, Missouri
Gabriella Morales	Beaufort, South Carolina
Clara Sato	Madison, Wisconsin

**THE WOMAN’S EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY (WES)
 of Colorado College**

2019-2020

Annual Report of the President

**131th Annual Meeting
 April 2020**

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, 2019

Paid members	103
Life and Silver Special members.....	63
Ex-officio and Honorary members	4
Additional DataBase Contacts.....	169
Total.....	339

Board of Managers accounts as of December 31, 2019

Operating Fund.....	\$12,737.62
Scholarships – Fundraising.....	\$40,062.00
Dorothy P. Bryson Special Student Assistance Fund.....	\$5,000.00
Sponsorship Fund	\$2,800.00
Gifts to Colorado College Fund.....	\$14,600.00
Marianne Stoller Gift Fund	\$14,500.00

Market Value of the Endowment as of December 31, 2019

Composed of the WES Irrevocable Trust and the WES Revocable Trust, which includes the Cook, Hinch, Campbell Stone, and General Scholarship funds	\$5,619,416
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2019-2020 Scholarship funds allocated to 20 scholars \$170,000

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

- August 17, 2019** **New Scholar Meet & Greet**
- September 14, 2019** **Van Briggle Pottery Festival**
- September 11 2019** **Scholar Tea at Stewart House**
- October 28, 2019** **Fall Special Event/Play**
“How 3 Strong Women Changed
Colorado Springs for the Good”
Cancelled due to snow storm
- December 11, 2019** **Scholar Event: Cookie Exchange**
- January 28, 2020** **Winter Lunch and Program – Leah Witherow**
“100 Years of Suffrage: Colorado Led
The Way”
- March 10, 2020** **Corral Bluffs – Miller and Lyson**
“Rise of the Mammals”
- April 1, 2020** **Women of the West Luncheon**
Cancelled due to COVID-19
- April 21, 2020** **WES Annual Meeting and Luncheon**
Cancelled due to COVID-19

Please read the committee reports for more details.

Contact us at:

WES@coloradocollege.edu
(719) 389-7699
www.coloradocollege.edu/other/wes
Like us on Facebook

Scholarship Committee

Chair: Amy Dounay

Members: Brittany Almeida, Sharon Grady, Judy DeGroot, Lisa Bonwell, Debra Wynn, and Tess Powers

Following are some details of a productive year for the committee:

- Selection of and notification to five (5) new WES Scholars, as well as the recruitment and assignment of mentors, was the initial focus of committee efforts;
- Provided photos and biographical info for each scholar for the *NewsFocus*. Additional photos and narratives were provided to the *NewsFocus* following other activities involving the scholars;
- Planned, organized and hosted the August Meet and Greet activity to welcome the scholars, meet their parents, and introduce scholar mentors and WES Board members;
- WES Scholars' Tea held at the Stewart House in September. New scholars were introduced to their mentors and to the broader Colorado College community. Framed certificates and small mementos were also presented to them;
- All scholars were expected to attend the September Van Briggles Tour and Festival and fill one volunteer slot for at least 2 hours. Scholars were able to share their WES experience with the larger community;
- Goodie bags were prepared and distributed to the scholars during each semester. Additionally, the December holiday Cookie Exchange was planned, executed and well-attended by scholars and mentors;
- Encouraged WES Scholars to attend the Fall and Winter luncheon programs;
- Disseminated WES Special Grant Application information to the scholars each semester. Accepted applications, reviewed and selected grant recipients;
- The Scholarship committee holds itself to the following statement (similar to CC's anti-discrimination statement): We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, religion, gender identity or expression, disability, or sexual orientation in our scholar programs and activities.
- Update for 2020: Due to COVID-19, CC transitioned to remote learning beginning in Block 7 for the remainder of the school year. Because of this, and the Colorado shelter-in-place order, the Annual Meeting will not be held in April 2020. The WES President, scholarship committee members, and others are brainstorming ways to celebrate the senior scholars. The president has also requested quick updates and photos from senior scholars on their accomplishments and how WES has contributed to their CC experience and development.

Additionally, for this year only, the Scholarship Committee voted to allow the CC Financial Aid Office to select the 6 incoming WES

Scholars for the 2020-2021 academic year. This is due to an inability and uncertainty about meeting in person for the selection process. The committee came up with a set of criteria for the Financial Aid Office to follow. This adapted process will apply to 2020's selection process only.

- In the future, the committee would like to implement a new scholar selection process that includes requesting short essays from potential scholars (from a list provided by the CC Financial Aid Office). This will help to secure more buy-in from the scholars we select.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Judy De Groot

First, I trust that this WES Annual Report finds all of you safe and staying healthy in these most unusual and stressful times. It is must be so very disappointing for all the Colorado College seniors to not have the right of passage graduation celebrations with the cancelling of the commencement ceremony. We are all so immensely proud of the WES Senior Scholars as they move to the next chapter of their lives.

We continue to honor our mission of providing financial and mentorship to our WES Scholars, and support events that bring the Colorado College and community together (see Program Committee Report). We had another successful Van Briggles Festival this year (see the Fundraising Committee report). This year we sponsored a very well attended evening event called "The Rise of Mammals," presented by two Paleontologists, one of whom was a CC graduate. We continue to explore new ideas to bring CC and the community together.

The WES Board of Managers held a retreat in January at the beautiful Penrose House in Colorado Springs. The retreat was facilitated by a WES member, Judith Light who is a trained facilitator and she did a wonderful job. I was so impressed with the enthusiasm and generation of great ideas that resulted from the retreat. All the committee chairs and members have reviewed and updated the purpose, policies and functions as one outcome of the retreat.

Our WES Scholars continue to impress all of us. They are truly amazing young women and we all are so proud of their accomplishment.

It has been a privilege for me to hold the office of President of WES and I am so grateful to the entire Board of Managers for their dedication to the mission of WES, the support they provide WES scholars as mentees as well as their ongoing enthusiasm and creativity. WES remains a successful and strong organization because of talented and dedicated Board of Managers members as well as the support we receive from Colorado College. We are a small, but mighty group of strong women. Thank you for allowing me to serve as President

Public Relations and Fundraising Committee

Chair: Pamela Fickes-Miller

Members: Brittany Almeida, Cindi Zenkert-Strange, Jeri Peterson and Karen Rubin, Judy De Groot

Newsfocus Editor: Pamela Fickes-Miller

Van Briggle Festival – Chair, Nadia Hunter

The Annual WES Van Briggle Pottery Festival was held September 14, 2019. The Bemis School of Art at Colorado College was our co-sponsor. Our community partners were The Horticultural Art Society, the McAllister House, the Friends of Monument Valley Park and the Manitou Springs Heritage Center. A widespread promotional media campaign for the event was executed across printed media, social media and radio, reaching Colorado Springs and the region up through Denver. The “Festival” was successful; many WES members stepped up and devoted numerous hours to make the event a success. Touring schedules for the Van Briggle center were full all day. The event resulted in a net of \$5285.56.

The Woman’s Educational Society has maintained continuous social networking presence on Facebook with the page *Woman’s Educational Society of Colorado College* and on Instagram at *#van_briggle_festival*.

WES *News-focus* continues to be an integral part of our publicity, featuring photos of our scholars, our programs and our fundraisers as well as articles by our scholars on their accomplishments. Our *News-focus* editor resigned in the fall of 2019 and Pamela Fickes-Miller agreed to organize stories and photographs provided by WES committee chairs for the Spring 2020 edition.

Finance Committee

Chair: Lyrae Williams, Treasurer

Assistant Treasurer: Monique Michaud

Members: Judy DeGroot, Amy Dounay, Tess Powers, and Dottie Rue (CC)

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, 2019, it was valued at \$5,619,416.

The Board of Managers’ goal is to provide scholars no less than 10% of the total cost of attending Colorado College. For academic year 2020-21, the scholarship will be \$8,900. This amount is 12.0% of Colorado College’s cost of attendance. The total annual scholarship commitment for 21 students will be \$186,900.

In January 2020, the WES board approved a \$25,000 transfer from the Scholarship Fund to the WES Endowment. WES was able to make this contribution to the endowment as the result of fundraising activities, PILLAR trips, and the annual support of our members. Growing the endowment enables WES to continue ongoing support for scholars in perpetuity.

WES is planning to increase the number of scholars each year by one, until we reach 24 scholars in 2023. Six new scholars will be awarded an \$8,900 scholarship for the 2020-21 academic year along with the fifteen returning scholars. This would be impossible without our the continued support of our loyal members and friends, and the efforts of the Fundraising Committee. We congratulate the entire WES community on its efforts to maintain the value of WES scholarships. All contributions are greatly appreciated.

***In light of the Covid-19 crisis, the Finance Committee along with its liaison to Colorado College is continuing to monitor the impact the crisis is having on the financial market and the WES Endowment. The Finance Committee will reassess its recommendation to add one more scholar for the 2020-21 academic year based on revised projections of the market value of the endowment in May 2020, and again in August 2020.*

Fundraising Committee

Chair: Nadja Hunter and Pamela Fickes-Miller

Members: Eileen Martin, Cindi Zenkert-Strange, Lyrae Williams, Judy De Groot

Members-at-Large: Sharon Rice, Cathy Wilson-O'Donnell

Van Briggie Festival –

The 2019 Van Briggie Festival in September was a success with a total in ticket sales of \$4,920. Additional income came from donations, pottery throwing and sales of various WES items. Minus expenses of \$971.44, the total contribution to scholarships from this event was \$5,372.41

Tours were led by WES members and Distinguished Docents from the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College. Presentations included a short film that featured Van Briggie Memorial Pottery staff, talks by 'Anne Van Briggie', George Eckhardt, Dan Crossey and Larry Terrafranca. The tour ended with a display of pottery that illustrated the colors of nature in Van Briggie and a talk by Kathy Honea assisted by Linda Crissey. Several WES scholars were at the event and spoke with attendees waiting for their tours to start.

Attendees were able to visit with our community partners that included the The Horticultural Art Society, the Mc Allister House, the Friends of Monument Valley Park and the Manitou Springs Heritage Center.

WE are grateful for the Support of the Bemis School of Art in co-sponsoring the Festival and we look forward to their continuing support. Bemis staff and volunteers provided pottery demonstrations and an opportunity for attendees to try their hand at throwing a pot on the wheel. Bemis also staffed a pottery dig area where young participants could try their hand at digging for pottery pieces.

The Festival would not be possible without WES Board members past and present and all the other volunteers.

The future of the Van Briggie Festival is uncertain. The area used for parking is now the staging area for ongoing construction on the CC campus, thus not available this fall for parking. So, WES is exploring alternatives to holding a Van Briggie Festival, but in a different format.

WES/Pillar Trip – Chairs, Sharon Rice and Cathy Wilson-O'Donnell

Discover Oklahoma was scheduled for April 28 – May 4, 2020, however, due to COVID-19, the trip was cancelled.

Program Committee

Chair: Patsy Aronstein,

Members: Lisa Bonwell, Judy DeGroot, Karen Henderson, Monique Michaud, Cindi Zenkert-Strange

Scholars' Tea - September 11, 2019

The Scholars' Tea was held at the magnificent Stewart House. WES President Judy De Groot made brief remarks about WES' work and introduced Colorado College President Jill Tiefenthaler, who spent time meeting the new scholars and greeting guests. Scholars were introduced and provided background about themselves and their study plans.

Fall Special Event—October 28, 2019

WES' plan to present the play: "How 3 Strong Women Changed Colorado Springs for Good" was thwarted by snow and campus events were cancelled. The play was to take place in historic Bemis Hall followed by refreshments. The event was to serve as an opportunity to introduce new members to WES.

Cookie Exchange—December 11, 2019

Wes held its annual cookie exchange but with a new twist this year. Along with the Scholarship committee, WES provided a Gourmet Mac and Cheese buffet, followed by cookie decorating. Scholars and mentors had plenty of time to catch up with one another in the beautiful Cossitt Faculty Lounge. Scholars left with their usual cookie tin of delicious treats to fortify them in their last days before winter break.

Winter Program—January 28, 2020- Leah Witherow on women's suffrage

Leah Witherow of the Pioneer's Museum was the featured speaker at WES' winter luncheon where the topic was "100 years of suffrage: Colorado led the way." Ms. Witherow's talk was lively and informative and highlighted the significant role the west played in the suffrage movement. Witherow provided pictures and colorful commentary about local participation in the movement, including the iconic photo of suffragists in The Garden of The Gods Park. Additionally, The Colorado Women's Hall of Fame provided photographs with biographies of Colorado suffragists who have been inducted into the Hall.

Spring Program—March 10, 2020-Miller and Lyson speak on Corral Bluffs

WES tried a different format for this event: a cocktail hour lecture with Denver Museum of Nature and Science Paleontologist-Curators, Ian Miller ('83) and Tyler Lyson. The two scientists spoke about their recent groundbreaking discovery of fossils at Corral Bluffs. Their talk was followed by a compelling Q and A session. Attendees were treated to a delicious cocktail buffet. The event was well attended by WES members and a broader group from the community

Cancelled due to Covid-19 Crisis

Women of the West Luncheon - April 1, 2020

Annual Lunch and Program—April 21, 2020

Membership Committee

Chair: Cindi Zenkert-Strange
Database Manager: Carolyn Dickerson
Members: Patsy Aronstein, Judith Light, Debbie Wynn, Jeri Peterson, Karen Rubin

Membership statistics as of December 31, 2019:

Paid members	103
Life and Silver Special members.....	63
Ex-officio and Honorary members	4
Additional DataBase Contacts.....	169
Total.....	339

- In November, 2019, letters were drafted and mailed to all members who had not yet paid their 2019 dues. The mailing was completed in conjunction with our database manager, Carolyn Dickerson and CC staff, organized by treasurer Lyrae Williams.
- We also sent letters to lifetime and silver special members offering them an opportunity to make a WES donation, and to past scholars who had not previously become members, inviting them to join us and to give back
- Tax letters were mailed in January thanking our supporters and acknowledging contributions for tax purposes, again in conjunction with our database manager and CC staff organized by the treasurer
- Membership worked with Programs and Publicity to identify programs that might be attractive to nonmembers and to deploy new tools, such as Eventbrite, to reach nonmembers in our target populations and to provide a means of payment for the general public

Work in progress:

- The Membership Committee also began work on redefining the committees's responsibilities and preparing a survey for current members focusing on what they value about WES and membership.
- With a greater outreach to the public, the Membership Committee agreed to have a membership station at each program open to the public, staffed by member volunteers and stocked with membership brochures and applications available.
- The Membership Brochure is being updated and will include the new logo and fresh photography.
- The Membership Committee is reviewing the annual dues and tax letters to strengthen this outreach, and take better advantage of this communication with members/donors

• Nominating Committee

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- Chair: Karen Rubin
- Board Members: Judith Light, Cindi Zenkert-Strange, Kelley Riggs
- Members-at-large: Judy Casey, Ann Burek
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- The Nominating Committee is eagerly looking to add new members to our membership as well as to our Board of Managers. We successfully added five new members to the Board of Managers in 2019. Now, in 2020, a few members will be transitioning off the board and thus, we continue our efforts to recruit new members to the Board of Managers. Also, in January 2020, we had a very successful Board of Managers retreat and all committees are now reviewing, revising, & updating Purposes, Policies, and Procedures.
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- Please contact us if you want more information about WES and our Mission and/or if you are interested in joining us on the Board of Managers or as a member at: WES@coloradocollege.edu
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- **SLATE OF OFFICERS TO BE APPROVED AT THE MAY WES BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING:**
 -
 - PRESIDENT: Karen Rubin
 -
 - VICE PRESIDENT: Patsy Aronstein
 -
 - RECORDING SECRETARY: Lisa Bonwell
 -
 - CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Judith Light
 -
 - TREASURER: Lyrae Williams
 -
 - ASSISTANT TREASURER: Catherine Tobin
 -

