

An Opportunity to Lead Campaign News: Donors Making a Difference



An
OPPORTUNITY
TO LEAD



The campaign for
CHOATE
ROSEMARY
HALL

Campaign Goal:
\$200 Million

\$149 Million Collected in
Gifts and Pledges
as of 12/31/08



Rebecca Breed '54
P '79, '81, GP '08, '10
- Mission Believer

I support Choate Rosemary Hall because I believe in its mission. I see it first hand in my family, whose long association starts with Rosemary Hall, continues into Choate Rosemary Hall, and includes two of my sons, my grandson, and granddaughter. And I was very flattered to be asked to serve on the Choate Rosemary Hall Board at two different times.

I left a bequest to the school in my will because I believe that if you get a lot from something, you should give something back. It would be nice if everyone felt that way.

I owe a lot to Rosemary Hall. The school instilled a great spirit that carries me throughout my life. Carolyn Ruutz-Rees was no longer headmistress when I was there, but she was still living on campus and involved in the lives of the students. She inspired Rosemary Hall girls to understand that no success comes without failure, and that our lives are defined not by our failures, but by how we face them. I can still hear Miss Ruutz-Rees saying, "Pull your socks up and get going!"

And my school chums and I did! We still do!

My aunt, Rebecca Tenney Agnew, was Rosemary Hall '27 and left a large bequest to the school to build a new, much needed dorm. She couldn't have children, but loved Rosemary Hall so much. This new residence hall, Tenney House, is her legacy. The dorm was dedicated in November, with my aunt's portrait hanging in the building.

I feel strongly that there should be more daughters of Rosemary Hall alumnae at the school. They understand Rosemary's remarkable legacy and would strengthen Choate Rosemary Hall and sustain its spirit.

I just wish I had more money to give to the school. If I did, I'd give it. It's a lot of fun knowing that I am making a difference in young people's lives.



Rebecca Tenney Agnew '27

The Power of Endowment

www.campaignforchoate.org

OBJECTIVE: To increase Choate's endowment by nearly 50% through commitments to key institutional priorities.

IMPACT: To provide \$5.5 million in added investment income annually to support Choate's students, faculty and academic programs.

Gretchen Cooper Leach '57 - Greatest Gift



The three years I spent at Rosemary Hall were very meaningful. My father died in the first week of my sophomore year. It was a tough time and the school was very nurturing and the girls were very supportive. It turned out to be a wonderful three years. It forced me to grow up, yet I had fun at the same time.

I'm very pro boarding school. I think it is the greatest gift one can give to a child. Young people need structure and it is important that they get that from school as well as from their parents. And I think it's wonderful for girls to be in a coed environment. Girls need to be comfortable around boys in a relaxed setting, not just the mixers a few times a year as it was when I was in school. That's the real world.

I was flattered to be asked to join the Board and I'm excited to serve our school.

Linda Hawley Riefler '79 - Test of Time



The school is an outstanding environment committed to developing young minds and making them successful in a complex, diverse, and fast moving world.

As an athlete at Rosemary Hall, I developed a lot of skills that complemented my academic skills. My sports background has been a valuable tool in my career at Morgan Stanley. The school reconnected with me after several years. Serving on the Board has made me feel stronger than ever about the school. I see firsthand the school's commitment to diversity, outstanding sports, and great academics.

The school empowers the students with a broad education dealing with moral and ethical positions, and developing intellectual strength, and also understanding differences and similarities between boys and girls.

There's an important focus on diversity in general but it's also a good message for girls, because after they graduate college and move up in their careers, they may find they are still minorities in many professions. Now as I travel around the globe, I see how Choate stands the test of time. I have three girls and would feel really good

about sending them to Choate because I see how the school prepares the students to be successful in our more complex, faster-paced world.

Dorms for Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

Choate Rosemary Hall's newest dorms blend heritage, contemporary needs, and vision.

The new residence halls resulted from the lead gift, a generous bequest from Rebecca Tenney Agnew '27. As Mrs. Agnew stipulated, the buildings' neo-classic design is styled after Dewey House, Mrs. Agnew's beloved college dorm at Smith. But the design also reflects current needs while looking to the future.

Foremost, it provides a nurturing home environment for 80 students living away from their families. Allocating equal space to girls and boys, the dorms offer a 10:1 student live-in faculty ratio and two sunny, boy/girl segregated units separated by a large shared courtyard. Responding to contemporary security concerns, the corners feature faculty apartments facing outward into public streets; all student rooms face into the campus.

Importantly, the new dorms also address the perennial boarding school challenge: How to motivate experienced faculty to live in dorms? Its solution? Marc Simon, of Centerbrook Architects and Planners, explains. "The faculty apartments have fireplaces, porches, large window seats, wonderful bathrooms and kitchens, lots of daylight, and French doors." He adds, "It would be hard to find something as nice in a New York apartment!"

Integrating input from many constituencies – including students, faculty, trustees, parents, facilities staff and Wallingford neighbors – the new dorms are also intensely "green." Partly geothermal, they are heated and cooled using ground water, use low-flow toilets and showers, and boast energy-saving temperature controls in each dorm unit. Marc Simon says, "Studies showed the extra costs will pay off in short timing."

Educational values, practicality, aesthetics, environmental and social responsibility, comfort, and security... The new dorms are a metaphor for the Choate experience.



Support for Students

www.campaignforchoate.org

OBJECTIVE: \$40 million in new endowment, providing \$2 million in new financial aid each year.

IMPACT: To strengthen Choate's ability to enroll students of exceptional promise and to sustain a community diverse in ethnicity, geography, and economic background.

Support for Faculty
www.campaignforchoate.org

OBJECTIVE: \$17 million in new endowment supporting faculty compensation and professional development opportunities.

IMPACT: To help Choate compete even more successfully in hiring the best faculty and to support these faculty fully in their professional growth.

Janie Gale P '09 - Endless Opportunities

We support Choate because our son is so happy there and is getting a fantastic education. We took him on a tour of the best boarding schools in the country. When we got to Choate it was pouring rain, but our son sat up in the back of the car and said, "I see myself here."

I laughed and said to him, "What makes you say that? It's raining so hard that I can barely see anything."

But that was that. And Choate has been fantastic for him. He spent the spring of his junior year abroad in China and did a summer program at Oxford. The opportunities at Choate are just endless.

I feel that Choate is different. The kids are quite exceptional and have a great outlook. Yet Choate doesn't have an attitude about itself, but is warm and welcoming.

My husband and I recently committed a large gift to Choate to make a new dorm environmentally friendly. Outside of my family, my passion is to slow climate change and make the world a better place for all beings, by making it greener. We love Choate for what it has given our son and therefore want to give back to Choate and all the future Choaties!



Jeanette Sublett P '07, '10 - The Choate Rosemary Hall Perspective

I can't tell you how great Choate has been for my family. My daughter recently said, "Mom, because of Choate I think differently." Choate put the world in perspective for her. It's given her the tools to have a better understanding of what's going on in the world.

The young women at Choate are challenged just like the young men and treated equally. Choate provides a nurturing environment, but doesn't sugar coat reality. My daughter now won't accept mediocrity. She insists on a level playing field because she's used to that at Choate. She won't settle as I did in law school, where women made up only a small percentage of the class. Because of Choate, my daughter won't say, "That's just the way it is."

Once I get rolling about Choate, I could go on and on. Now our younger twins want to go to Choate! It's a sacrifice to give up your kids and have them leave home earlier. But you need to do what's best for them and I see Choate as a gift I can give them.



Lauren Provini '08 - Senior "Spot-on"

Lauren Provini, who entered Yale this September and is planning to study medicine, was one of the driving forces behind creating the school's "Senior Spot." She recalls her inspiration and motivation.

After all I got from Choate, I wanted to give something meaningful back. The other senior representatives and I said to each other, "What about a place on campus dedicated to seniors?" We worked with the Development office and the result was the Senior Spot, which will become a tradition for each senior class to pass down to the next, in the same way that there is a designated senior section in the dining hall.

Senior year you can get so wrapped up with everything going on and lose sight of important things like friendships and taking the time to talk to people. It's really satisfying to me to know that we're offering a gift to the school that will promote community among the senior class.



Support for Facilities
www.campaignforchoate.org

OBJECTIVE: \$65 million for the construction of dormitories, improvements to athletic facilities, and campus restoration and preservation projects.

IMPACT: To provide Choate's students and faculty with a comfortable and appealing environment for learning and living.

Kathleen Wallace P '07 - Committed to Exciting Directions

To help maintain Choate Rosemary Hall's preeminence, Associate Headmaster Kathleen Wallace is committed to moving the school forward in exciting directions, such as offering a broad array of innovative academic initiatives. Kathleen explains, "Choate is one of the first schools at the high school level to create niche programs. The intent is to provide special opportunities for Choate students to explore an academic area of interest in depth. It's not specialization, but instead a tool students can use to decide later in college whether they want to study that discipline."

Kathleen points to Choate's unique Arts Concentration and Science Research Programs – no peer schools offer anything comparable! In both, selected students are able to develop their talents within the context of a rigorous academic program. Kathleen says, "What these students accomplish is incredible, from achievements in playwriting and theater directing that are lauded by the colleges to which they matriculate to recognition in the Siemens Competition, in which we have four semifinalists this fall!"

More recent explorations revolve around environmental studies and sustainability. Kathleen shares, "We introduced AP Environmental Science several years ago and have been expanding course offerings in that area ever since, and we formed a campus sustainability committee last year. We are interested in furthering our work in this important area of academic and (global) community life."



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