

The Salemite

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Results of Coalition's Grad Survey Not So Surprising

By: Barbara Teates

Last month the Women's College Coalition published the results of a survey of the lifestyles of women's college graduates from the classes of 1967 and 1977. Forty-eight women's colleges, including Salem, participated in the survey. Participants were questioned about their careers, families, campus and community involvement, and their attitudes toward women's colleges as learning institutions.

Over three-quarters of those surveyed are currently working for pay. More than half (59.3%) of those are employed fulltime, 18.2% work part-time, and 16.7% are full-time homemakers. (The percentage of homemakers among 1977 graduates is half that of the 1967 graduates).

Almost half of the currently employed graduates have careers in areas that have been traditionally dominated by men, such as medicine, law, management, and computer-related fields. The percentage of women in the class of 1977 who work in male-dominated fields is nearly twice that of the

class of 1967. The number of women's college graduates who have careers in health-related fields, research, non-retail sales, law, finance, and accounting has risen dramatically while the number of graduates in areas like education and administration has declined.

Of all the full-time, employed graduates surveyed, the majority earn between \$15,000 and \$30,000 per year. There is a high percentage (13.9%) who earn less than \$15,000 yearly; however, an equal percentage earn OVER \$40,000 annually. Comparing the classes, 19.5% of the 1967 graduates earn over \$40,000 per year compared to 9.8% of the class of 1977, which has not been in the work force as long.

In comparing undergraduate degrees and salaries, most of the women who earn over \$40,000 are science majors; the majority of those earning less than \$20,000 have professional degrees. Thirty-four percent of the women who earn from \$20,000 to \$30,000 have science degrees, 32% have social science degrees, 32.5% humanity

degrees, and 40.6% professional degrees.

Dr. Litzenburg is "not at all surprised at the dramatic increase in the number of graduates of women's colleges who will immediately enter the work force."

"Indeed," he comments, "among the ranking women's colleges, something in excess of 95% of the graduating seniors will do just that. However, in coeducational colleges the percentage is MUCH lower, and there are some very obvious reasons why that is so. Some would say that those reasons are not very complimentary to the self-esteem of women."

It is also interesting to compare the percentages of graduates in both classes who were married by age 23: over half of the class of 1967 were married by age 23; one-fourth of those who graduated ten years later was married by that age. Over three-fourths of all the women surveyed are currently or have been married; the percentage of 1967 graduates who have been married is almost 25% higher than that of the class of 1977.

Of those surveyed, 73.3% of the 1967 graduates have had children, while 26.8% of the 1977 graduates have had children. Sixty-three percent of both classes plan to have at least one child.

A majority of those graduating with the two classes surveyed have participated in various organizations both on campus and after graduation. Over four-fifths participated in at least one campus organization; over half were involved in two or more. Almost half held some type of leadership position on campus.

Over 87% of the alumnae said they had participated in some type of organization after graduation, whether in relation to their careers, in their communities, or in other areas. The 1967 graduates were more likely to be involved in their communities, in organizations, and in leadership positions than were the 1977 graduates.

A great majority of both classes are politically active. Ninety-one percent of the graduates surveyed are registered voters; over 90% of

both classes voted in 1980 and planned to vote in 1984. Over half of the alumnae have contributed to a political organization or campaign since graduation.

When questioned about their attitudes toward women's colleges in general and their individual colleges, 71% of the alumnae felt they would attend the same college they graduated from if they had to repeat their undergraduate experience. Over two-thirds said they would attend a women's college. The class of 1977 seemed to support women's colleges more than did the 1967 graduates.

Dr. Litzenburg again said he was "not at all surprised that 71% of the graduates of women's colleges as recently as seven years ago say that if they had the choice to make all over again, they still would have attended a college for women. I am only surprised that the percentage isn't higher!"

The results of the survey of Salem alumnae from the two classes will be available within the next month.



Dr. Elizabeth Tidball, Scholar in Residence

Photo by Allen Aycock

Women's Colleges' Future Bright Says Scholar in Residence

By: Malinda McCall

This year's Scholar in Residence is Dr. Elizabeth Tidball. She was on campus for the all-too-short span of Sunday, March 17th to Tuesday, March 19th, and during this time gave several informative talks that were beneficial to Salem students. Her presentation Monday night, "Women's Education Over the Past Seven Decades," will be used in a text on education in the United States.

Dr. Tidball is a native of Indiana and an alumna of both Mt. Holyoke and the University of Wisconsin. She completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the National Heart Institute, as well as a year's work as staff pharmacologist at Hazelton Laboratories, and she has been associated since 1962 with the George Washington University Medical Center where she has shown herself to be "an educator and researcher of talent." Not content to take life slowly, she also served on various committees and as a consultant for various educational and scientific groups.

She is a trustee of two colleges.

Dr. Marianne Triplette sent the Salem community a short "brochure" concerning Dr. Tidball two weeks or so prior to her arrival. Dr. Triplette described Dr. Tidball as "a truly outstanding scholar of national reputation," she also claimed that she often "combines wit with academic craftsmanship," a prediction which proved accurate during Dr. Tidball's short stay.

She has a M.S. and a Ph. D. in physiology and is particularly concerned with the processes involving platelets and histamine in addition to her study of the institutional background of men and women who are scholarly.

She has found that the "undergraduate institutions producing high-achieving women are different from those producing high achieving men, with the women's colleges playing an exceptionally prominent roll for women."

She also has found that alumnae of women's colleges are "twice as likely to be cited for achievement

as are women graduating from coeducational institutions" and that "success for women is directly proportional to the number of women faculty of the single sex and old institutions."

There was a veiled reference on Monday to W & L as she mentioned a particular, previously all-male college that felt that women "would not compromise their illustrious history;" how sad it was, she thought, that women would like to attend a school where they would be thought of in that manner—as not "compromising" their new alma mater.

Recently she has discovered that faculty at women's colleges are less likely to believe that "male students comprehend material better" and that they are generally more supportive of women than are the faculty members (mostly male) at men's and coed colleges and universities. She was supportive of Salem, adding that she was pleased with the current state-of-affairs here.