

RACHEL CARSON'S CHATHAM

On the 50th anniversary of the publication of *Silent Spring*, Chatham University is proud to have been part of the early influence and life of alumna Rachel Carson '29. While much has changed on campus since Rachel enrolled here in 1925, her influence is very much alive on campus today. This brochure gives a quick glimpse into the Chatham (Pennsylvania College for Women) of Rachel's time within the campus of today.



*Rachel Carson, 1929 Pennsylvania College for Women
(now Chatham University) yearbook photo*

PERSPECTIVES
on
SILENT SPRING
at 50 SYMPOSIUM

Rachel Carson at Chatham



First Year students, 1925



Field hockey team, 1928

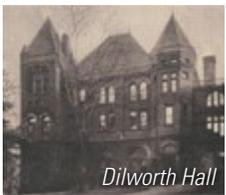
Rachel grew up in Springdale, Pa., a small borough located about 18 miles up the Allegheny River from downtown Pittsburgh. In the fall of 1925, she entered Pennsylvania College for Women (PCW), founded in 1869 to provide “*for young ladies what colleges of the first class accomplished for young men.*” An excellent student, she received an academic scholarship to attend. As one of 235 students at PCW, she participated in athletics, including field hockey and basketball, and wrote for the *The Arrow* and *The Englicode*, the student newspaper and literary supplement. Examples of her writing for class and campus publications can be found in Chatham University’s archives at www.chatham.edu/archives.



Mary Scott Skinker and 1928-29 sophomore classmate

She entered PCW intent on majoring in English and becoming a writer. However, during her sophomore year, she took an introductory biology class taught by professor Mary Scott Skinker, who became her mentor. This class and others taught by Skinker changed the course of Carson’s life, inspiring her to change her major to science.

Berry Hall and Dilworth Hall



Dilworth Hall



Berry Hall



Rain garden outside of the current Dilworth Hall

Berry Hall, the center of campus activity during Rachel’s era, was said to be the largest private residence in Pittsburgh before it was sold to what was then known as Pennsylvania Female College. For many years, it was the college’s only building; it included classrooms, labs, administration offices, dining facilities, a library, and bedrooms for students and some faculty members. Rachel lived in Berry Hall during her first two years at PCW and also attended science classes there.

Rachel and her classmates had their science labs on the third floor of Dilworth Hall, a 3-story building built in 1889 that housed a chapel with seating for 650, classrooms, and living space for students.

The original Dilworth Hall was demolished in 1952. Today, another building by that name is the temporary home of Chatham’s School of Sustainability and the Environment.

Science Facilities



Science Lab in Berry Hall





ss officers



Rachel Carson at graduation

The Campus



Andrew Mellon residence



Lindsay House and Woodland Hall

During Rachel's years at PCW, the 10.5 acre campus perched above Fifth Avenue consisted of eight buildings, of which only Woodland Hall and Lindsay House remain today. The Mellon family's mansion, now Chatham's Andrew Mellon Center was not gifted to the University until 1941. Chatham's Woodland Road site is more than three times larger than it was during Rachel Carson's era.

Chatham's campus footprint now includes the Shadyside Campus, which includes the Woodland Road and Chatham Eastside sites, and the Eden Hall Campus in Richland Township. With a total of 425 acres, Chatham is the largest college or university by acreage in western Pennsylvania.



circa 1910

Today, classrooms and labs are located in Chatham's Science Complex, which consists of the Louise Buhl Hall and the Laboratory Building annex. Buhl Hall was in the planning stages while Rachel Carson was at PCW, but was not built until the year after she graduated. One of its most striking features is the entablature around the top of the building, on which the names of 28 scientists of the time are listed. The fact that no women were included on the list speaks volumes on the status of women scientists and the career challenges women like Rachel Carson faced.



Woodland Hall



Rachel lived in Woodland Hall during her last two years at PCW. Only the northernmost section of the current building existed at that time. In 2011, solar hot water panels were installed on the roof of Woodland Hall as part of Chatham's campus sustainability efforts. This installation is the largest solar installation of its kind in Pennsylvania and the eighth largest in the country. Café Rachel, located on the ground floor of Woodland Hall, is a popular gathering place on campus and often hosts live entertainment.

A Lasting Legacy



Mellon Center



Eden Hall Campus



Shadyside Campus Quad (where Rachel once played field hockey)



Eden Hall Campus: Eco-Center



Eden Hall Campus: Dairy Barn



Eden Hall Campus: Field Lab

Though Rachel graduated from PCW in 1929, bound for graduate school at Johns Hopkins University, her legacy endures at Chatham. Just as her alma mater helped to shape the person she became, she too played a role in shaping the institution that Chatham University is today.

One of Rachel's many legacies at her alma mater is Chatham's longtime ban on the use of chemical herbicides, pesticides, and cleaning supplies on campus. Chatham also established the Rachel Carson Institute, the mission of which is to promote Carson's legacy through environmental education and advocacy. In 2004, Chatham became one of the very first colleges and universities (Charter Signatory) to join the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment, which seeks to reduce and eventually eliminate campus greenhouse gas emissions.

In 2008, Chatham's Board of Trustees supported the sustainability and the environment mission initiative with the establishment of the School of Sustainability and the Environment. The school will be housed at Chatham's Eden Hall Campus, the first campus in the world to be built sustainably from the ground up.

As a member of the International Sustainable Campus Network and the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, Chatham infuses its commitment to sustainability and the environment throughout the University. The Environmental Protection Agency, the Princeton Review, the U.S. Green Building Council, and the League of American Bicyclists have all recognized Chatham's many green initiatives. Providing biodiesel shuttle busses, fostering a "Bike Friendly" environment, and purchasing renewable energy are just a few of the ways in which Chatham pursues its goal of reducing carbon emissions to zero by 2025. Chatham was also the first institution in the Pittsburgh region to ban the sale of bottled water.

Chatham recognizes that being sustainable is an ongoing process and that sustainability at Chatham is a work in progress. But we are proud that our efforts to date have already brought us recognition as one of the greenest campuses in one of the country's greenest cities.

chatham UNIVERSITY

**SCHOOL OF SUSTAINABILITY
AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

Master of Arts in Food Studies

Master of Sustainability

Certificate in Sustainable Management

chatham.edu/sse

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