

The Sage Society

SPRING 2005



“The courage to ask,
the grace to wonder,
the strength to reach out
or stand alone.”

—Kath Howell '58

When Kath Howell arrived at Emma Willard in 1955, she was terribly homesick. “I can remember singing the *Alma Mater* at the first assembly,” says Kath. “When we came to the lines, ‘the days that lie before us/our memories soon shall be,’ I thought it couldn’t happen soon enough.”

Just a few days later, Kath had a very different experience in history class. “Miss McKeon had asked a question of the class and, as we were all frantically searching our notebooks for the answer, she said, ‘Girls, the answer isn’t in your notes. I have asked you a question, and I want to know what you *think* about it.’ I had never heard a teacher say something like that. I can remember thinking that this is what it is to have a mind, and then I knew that I was at Emma Willard to learn how to use it.”

Almost 20 years later, Kath returned to Mount Ida to teach, and she experienced the school from a very different perspective. “Teachers at Emma Willard share the learning process as honestly and objectively as possible with students. This is what makes Emma Willard unique, and it is why I owe Emma Willard a great deal. The courage to ask, the grace to wonder, the strength to reach out or stand alone—that is what Emma Willard gave me.”

Like so many other alumnae, Kath used the skills she acquired at Emma Willard to forge her own unique path. Recipient of a *magna cum laude* degree in drama from Vassar College and a McKnight Fellowship in Playwriting with the Tyrone Guthrie Theater at the University of Minnesota, Kath has worked in and written for Vassar

Experimental Theater, Tyrone Guthrie Theater, Emma Willard School, and the Rensselaer County Community Players. Many of Kath's poems and drawings have been published, most recently in her collection, *Brush with Reality*.

When Kath decided it was time to think about creating a will, she knew she wanted to make provisions for the causes that are most important to her. Emma Willard was at the top of the list. "I know how expensive it is to run a school like Emma Willard," says Kath, "and I know that tuition does not completely cover those costs. I make modest contributions to the school each year, but it occurred to me that, through my estate, I would be able to make a larger gift to Emma Willard than I ever would during my lifetime."

There are many ways to include Emma Willard in your estate plans. If you would like more information, please contact Michele Susko in the Office of Gift Planning at (518) 833-1788 or visit the school's Web site at www.emmawillard.org.



Fund-raising is like barn raising—
a good old-fashioned American way
to keep a roof over our heads!

—Drawing by Kath Howell

EMMA WILLARD SCHOOL
285 Pawling Avenue
Troy, NY 12180
(518) 833-1300