

BE IT RESOLVED: The faculty of Skidmore College expresses its profound appreciation and admiration for the following member of the Skidmore faculty who has this year expressed her determination to retire. The faculty further resolves that the following biographical highlights be included in the minutes of the faculty meeting of April 27, 2001--as recognition and celebration of distinguished service and achievement.

Charlotte Margolis Goodman joined the Skidmore Faculty in 1974, with an M.A.T. from Harvard and an M.A. and Ph.D. from Brandeis, completing her dissertation on the work of Henry James. For over twenty-five years, she has commuted one hour each way up and down the Northway almost daily, firmly establishing herself as a most integral member of both the department and the College.

As long ago as 1989, an English Department Chair wrote, "Charlotte's heartfelt and energetic dedication to department and college-wide activities makes her a model for our newer colleagues, and she is one of the most active in providing them assistance and a sense of community." Her attentiveness and unflagging intellectual curiosity have contributed to the success of an extraordinary number of campus events each and every year as she has almost always been the one to ask the first question at countless post-lecture discussion sessions. Charlotte has rarely missed any Theater Department productions or Women's Studies events, among others; her constant presence there reflects her keen interest in our students' work, in interdisciplinarity, and in the lives, sometimes divided, that women scholars and teachers live. All this, and "her boundless energy and enthusiasm," as one colleague put it, for our collective endeavors, have made her a

remarkable role model and mentor for newer faculty, as well as for students, both traditional and those in the University Without Walls Program. As a colleague has said of her work with UWW students, “Charlotte is unfailingly supportive, caring and rigorous.” Throughout the wide range of courses Charlotte has taught, her students have commended her for these attributes. More, they have praised her passion for the texts and for teaching, the variety of modes in which she presents course material, her eagerness to help, and her respect for them.

Her participation in department and college governance has been continuous and significant, the latter including service on CAFR, FDC, Curriculum Committee, the Women’s Studies Committee, the University Without Walls Committee, the precursors to CFG and the LS Committee, and Phi Beta Kappa. Her contributions to the profession at large are equally extensive; they include offering invited lectures, serving as reviewer of applications for the American Association of University Women Education Foundation grants and of articles for publications, and participating in national seminars and on countless panels at professional meetings. In 1990 she served as President of Northeast Modern Language Association, signal evidence of the regard in which the larger community of literary scholars holds her.

Her professional achievements are remarkable given the large number of students in most of her very popular courses in American Literature, and given too her commitments to students in the HEOP Program and to those in developmental writing courses. She has lectured and written on Philip Roth, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Edith Summers Kelley, Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, Doris Lessing, Jean Stafford, Edith Wharton, Shalom Aleichem, and the art

of biography – and that was just one year! Her remarkable energy for her scholarly work has led to approximately twenty substantive essays in print. She has been a leader and an innovator among scholars, teaching us to discern the neglected or undervalued work, placing it in new and illuminating contexts, and thereby initiating its reconsideration by the literary establishment. Most noteworthy, of course, is her literary biography of Jean Stafford, [A Savage Heart](#), the exhaustive, complex and exhilarating preparation of which she shared at her 1995 Moseley Lecture, “Literary Biography: Fashioning a Female Subject.” Throughout her career, she has written and spoken of her experiences as a graduate student, scholar, wife, mother, commuter and professor, as these experiences illuminate the complexities of literary texts and authors’--and critics’--lives. As Charlotte has said, “In the process of reconstructing Jean Stafford’s life, I have not always approved of her actions. Nevertheless, as a wife, mother, and grandmother, as well as a teacher and scholar, I have identified with her struggles to define herself.”

There can be no question that Charlotte Goodman has defined herself as teacher, scholar and colleague par excellence at Skidmore College. We wish her many more years of commuting up the Northway to rejoin us.