A Kind of Homecoming

50 years after graduation, alumna revisits campus and memories of TC

Joan Bryce Shostak (B.S., 1948, M.A., 1955) recently returned to the campus of Teachers College for the first time in 50 years. She was invited to the Grace Dodge Society Luncheon on June 8 in New York City, and is glad she came.

Despite being a bit nervous about traveling by herself to NYC, Joan knew that her TC family was there for her and never felt alone. “It was thrilling to see the many beautiful changes to the campus,” she says, “and my memories were as fresh as yesterday.” She enjoyed her stay at the new residence hall and joined some TC staff in touring the new Gottesman Libraries and Macy Art Gallery.

Joan grew up in a family of teachers in White Plains, New York. Her mother, grandmother and two aunts were teachers, so it only seemed logical for Joan to follow in their footsteps. While she was certain of her vocation, the choice of colleges was vital.

In years past, Teachers College educated many under-graduates by partnering with schools such as the Ann Reno Institute and New College. Joan, for example, completed a bachelor’s in teaching at TC after three years at the Ann Reno Institute. After graduating, Joan started teaching in Chap-paqua, New York, and later moved to Hanover, New Hampshire. It was there that Joan decided to return to TC and finish her 15 credits toward her master’s degree.

Back at Teachers College, now as a graduate student, Joan was advised by Professor Roma Gans, who once told Joan that she was, “a fine example of independent thinking.” “I remember her as an exceptional educator and motivator,” Joan says.

In 1955, with a master’s degree in hand, Joan returned to the classroom as a kindergarten teacher in Scarsdale, New York. “Like most teachers, I still remember some incidents and the names of some students,” Joan says. Despite her love of classroom teaching, after 16 years Joan was eager for a change and new challenges. She found them at Creative Playthings, an educational materials company with a retail shop in Rockefeller Center. “It was invigorating to be interacting with children and adults in...continued on back page
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• Your annuity rate is determined by your age (at your nearest birthday) when your gift is made.

• Sample single-life rates follow for individuals age 65 and older:

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The Office of Planned Giving would be happy to prepare personalized gift calculations with no cost or obligation to you. If you are interested, please call us at 212-678-3231, toll free at 866-782-4438, or email us at giftplan@tc.columbia.edu.
Celebrating the Future

*Luncheon thanks Society members for investing in the future today*

On June 8, 2005, the Grace Dodge Society hosted its 5th annual luncheon at the University Club in midtown Manhattan. Since its inception in 2001, the Grace Dodge Society Luncheon has become a fun way to thank all of our members and friends for their thoughtful and generous planned giving.

Grace Dodge Society Chair William Dodge Rueckert welcomed 115 members and guests, making this year’s luncheon one of our most successful ever. Grace Dodge member and TC Trustee, Marjorie Hart delivered the keynote speech. Mrs. Hart eloquently described her involvement with the Grace Dodge Society through her estate plans. Student speaker Jessica Collado-Castillo then detailed her TC experience, which was made possible through funding of a similar bequest.

Teachers College is honored by the personal commitment so many have made to the future of the College. Our luncheon is just one way to say “thank you.” If you attended this year, we look forward to seeing you again, if not, we hope you will try to attend next year’s luncheon. You’ll be glad you did.

Marco Herradas, Anna Chiu, Timothy Abraham and Nang Le.

Marian Abbott and Trustee Marjorie Hart.

President Arthur Levine, Leonard Sacks and Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean Darlyne Bailey.

Elsie Todd Klaassen Scholarship recipient and student speaker, Jessica Collado-Castillo.
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a whole new setting," Joan says. In her role as Education Manager, she began to make television appearances, attend fashion shows and have public speaking engagements. She later worked at the Early Learning Division of the General Learning Corporation in product development before becoming an Early Childhood Specialist at a Newark, New Jersey, Headstart Program.

New challenges called again and Joan and a friend opened a Parent/Toddler Center in Pearl River, New York. They spent the next four years working with children aged 13 months to two-and-a-half years and their parents.

In 1983, her husband and fellow TC graduate, Jerome M. Shostak (M.A., 1941), retired as Vice President of Ladycliff College. The Shostaks then moved to Yarmouth Port on Cape Cod. Even after retiring from long, dedicated careers in education, she and her husband quickly became involved with local charities. "As my husband often said, 'We have to give back,'" she recalls.

Joan works with the Early Childhood Advisory Board for the Cape Cod Technical High School. Jerome founded the Education Foundation for Dennis and Yarmouth, funding promising and innovative educational projects, and promoting lifelong achievement through learning. When Jerome passed away in 1996, Joan was asked to serve as Chair of the Foundation's Board of Directors.

An accomplished artist, Joan is a member of the Yarmouth Art Guild, and a Juried Artist Member of the Cape Cod Art Association. The Yarmouth Art Guild sponsors an annual benefit for the Foundation using both member and local student art work.

A lifelong student, Joan understands and appreciates the need for long-range planning and support. In 2002, she established a charitable gift annuity at Teachers College to support the Department of Curriculum and Teaching, and she joined the Grace Dodge Society.

After a long absence, Joan is thrilled to be once again an active member of the TC family. "I may have left TC as a student," she says, "but now I am again part of the TC family as a donor and friend."