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Making Barnard History – Professor McCaughey  
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 **Rosemary Park Bio**  
Rosemary Park graduated *summa cum laude* from Radcliffe in 1928 with a major in German. She continued her academic career at the University of Cologne in Germany, where she graduated with a Ph.D. in German in 1934. A respected academic (Making Barnard History Blog, McCaughey), her dissertation was published the year after she graduated from the University of Cologne (In Memoriam, Rosemary Parks Anastos, 2004).   
  
On returning to the United States, Park commenced her professional career at Wheaton College in Massachusetts, where she joined the faculty as a German instructor and was soon appointed to the position of Dean of the Freshman in 1934 (*Current Biography,* 1964). Park then moved onto Connecticut College, where she ascended through the ranks of the college with relative ease; in 1938, she was appointed to an assistant professorship in the German Department and then was appointed an associate professor in 1943. From 1941 to 1945, Park served as academic dean and chairman of the German department at Connecticut College. Finally, in 1947, Park was appointed President of the College (In Memoriam, Rosemary Parks Anastos, 1924).

Members of the Connecticut College administration recognized President Park as both an established scholar and able administrator (*Current Biography,* 1964). As President, Park was a dogged fund-raiser, helping the school build several new buildings on campus and increasing the student body by one-third (Rosemary Park, 97, Dies; Force in Educating Women, NY Times, 2004). When Park announced her resignation from Connecticut College in 1962, the Board of Trustees of Connecticut College said of her departure, “It is very rarely that a distinguished scholar is also a thoroughly component administrator” (*Current Biography,* 1964). Park carried this legacy with her to Barnard, where faculty members regarded her competence as an administrator and scholar (Making Barnard History Blog, McCaughey). She was especially well received at Barnard, where fellow faculty members clamored for an academic to occupy the role of President (Making Barnard History Blog, McCaughey).   
  
When Park accepted the presidency at Barnard in 1962, she did so with a fair amount of administrative experience under her belt. In fact, former President McIntosh had recommended Park as a candidate on the basis of her administrative experiences (Making Barnard History Blog, McCaughey). Moreover, Park hailed from a family that was deeply involved in higher education. Her father served as the President of Wheaton College, while her brother served as the President of Simmons College (*Current Biography,* 1964). Park was the first woman in the United States to hold the role of President at more than one college.   
  
After joining Barnard, Park inevitably addressed the role of women’s colleges in public statements and addresses to the student body. Park seemed to stray away, however, from addressing deep-seated gender inequalities, instead advocating that women pursue higher education for primarily pragmatic reasons. She advocated that young women cultivate a sense of self-sufficiency and independence so as not to remain educationally or economically dependent on their partners. Writing in an address to Barnard students on February 7, 1963, Park claimed, “The idea of individual development takes precedence over the cultivation of the partner role.” As her obituary in the *NY Times* recorded, “Although she supported women’s education, she was not a zealot” (Rosemary Park, 97, Dies; Force in Educating Women, NY Times, 2004). This sentiment rings true in a few of Park’s public statements, in which her advocacy for women’s higher education is relatively tempered. For example, in her Voice of American Speech, she says, “When a women doesn’t have interests outside the home, [she] may find time hanging heavy. I hear from many parts of the country that many women are going back into jobs – either full time or part time” (Voice of America Speech, 1964).  
  
As President, Park witnessed a rapidly changing campus environment (Making Barnard History Blog, McCaughey). The Altschul Science Center was built during her tenure, adding another building to the school’s small campus. Additionally, the recurring issue of student housing resurfaced. In 1966, only 47% of students lived in Barnard-owned residence halls, while 23% lived at home, and the remainder in off-campus housing (Report of the Decade Luncheon, 1966). As such, President Park’s tenure witnessed the purchase of another building on 116th Street. The Administration also considered building another student residence in “the area of the tennis courts between Claremont and Broadway” (Report of the Decade Luncheon, 1966) in order to accommodate the growing number of students.  
  
During her time at Barnard, Park evaluated the College’s role in the lives of students in a number of capacities. As students began to adopt anti-Establishment attitudes of the 1960’s, Park called for the faculty and the Barnard administration to recognize students’ growing calls for independence. In her 1962-1964 report to the Board of Trustees, Park demonstrates a fair command of the student body’s attitude toward the Barnard administration, writing “Their desire to dissociate is strong” (President’s Report to the Trustees of Barnard College, 1962-1964). Addressing the reality that “student expectations have changed” and the college’s policy on parietals, Park advocated that the College retract from intervening in the personal lives of students: “It follows that the college from a student point of view should exercise only the most limited jurisdiction over its dormitory property, and student behavior, except in the classroom” (President’s Report to the Trustees of Barnard College, 1962-1964).  
  
Addressing the fate of the four year liberal arts college, Park called the Barnard administration and faculty to “elucidate the role of the institution” by making adjustments to the college’s curriculum (President’s Report to the Trustees of Barnard College, 1962-1964). In her report to the Board of Trustees, Park argued that the strength of Barnard’s undergraduate program rested on two factors: 1) recognizing improvements in the caliber of secondary school education and adjusting Barnard’s curriculum accordingly and 2) leveraging Barnard’s “friendship” with the University to create a stronger program at Barnard (President’s Report to the Trustees of Barnard College, 1962-1964).   
  
After five years at Barnard, Park announced that she would leave the College and pursue an administrative post at UCLA after marrying Milton Vasil Anastor, a Byzantine Greek scholar at UCLA (Rosemary Park, 97, Dies; Force in Educating Women, NY Times, 2004). At UCLA, Park served as Vice Chancellor, eventually retiring from the position in 1975. Even in her retired years, however, Park remained actively involved in higher education. For example, she contributed to the American Association for Higher Education’s bi-monthly publication, *Change* Magazine into her later years (In Memoriam, Rosemary Parks Anastos, 2004). Over the course of her lifetime, she received 25 honorary degrees at prestigious universities, Yale, Columbia, and New York University among them (In Memoriam, Rosemary Parks Anastos, 2004). In 1993, she received the Barnard Medal of Distinction (Making Barnard History Blog, McCaughey). In 2004, Park died at the age of 97 in Los Angeles.