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Making Barnard History  
Due: 4/6/2015

### **Ellen Futter Selected Biography**

Ellen Futter, BC'71 LAW '74, was the the 9th leader and 5th president of Barnard College. Upon graduation from Barnard Futter was raised from student member to full member of the Barnard Board of Trustees to fill the seat of Arthur Goldberg, former Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, the same year she enrolled in Columbia Law School.<sup>1</sup> After graduating from Columbia Law School Futter spent 6 years as an associate of the Wall Street law firm Milbank<sup>2</sup>, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy practicing corporate law. Futter took a one year leave from Milbank to serve as the acting president of Barnard in 1980 but was officially hired by the Board of Trustees to be president in 1981.

#### **Education and Family:**

Born on September 21, 1949 and a native of Port Washington, New York, Futter came from a Columbia University family--though her path to Columbia/Barnard wasn't as direct as the rest of her family's. Futter's Father Victor, CC'39, LAW'42, was an active alumnus of the university and the head of the Columbia College Class Fund. Her mother was not related to Columbia, but did work as a school librarian.<sup>3</sup> Both her older brother and younger sister attended Columbia as well.

At Barnard Futter majored in English and graduated Phi Beta Kappa and Magna Cum Laude. While an undergraduate she was the first student representative to the Barnard Board of Trustees. Futter spent her first two years of undergrad at the University of Wisconsin, Madison before transferring to Barnard.

Futter met her husband, John Shutkin, while at Columbia Law School but didn't have her first child until she was the president of Barnard. Though she has been recorded saying that she hoped her daughters go to Barnard, neither of them did. Her first of two daughters, Anne Victoria Shutkin, graduated from The Brearley School in 1999 for high school in Manhattan and completed her undergraduate degree in political science at Yale College in 2003.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ellen\\_V.\\_Futter](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ellen_V._Futter)

<sup>2</sup> It is interesting to note that the Milbank in the name of this firm, Albert Milbank, is related to Elizabeth Milbank Anderson who funded the construction of Milbank Hall. (Research done through Elizabeth Milbank Anderson's Wikipedia page and the history of the Milbank Memorial Fund: <http://www.milbank.org/about-the-fund/history>)

<sup>3</sup> <http://blogs.cuit.columbia.edu/ram31/deans-presidents/ellen-v-futter-biographical-outline/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.linkedin.com/pub/anne-v-shutkin/66/651/417>

Futter's second daughter Elizabeth graduated from Princeton University in 2007 with the completion of a 147 page senior thesis entitled "Justice, Peace, Politics: The Role of the International Criminal Court in Conflict Resolution."<sup>5</sup> While at Princeton, Shutkin was the president of the Organization of Women Leaders<sup>6</sup> and on the 2007 editorial board of the Daily Princetonian.<sup>7</sup>

Though they did not attend Barnard for their Bachelors degrees, both of her daughters graduated from Columbia Law School (Anne LAW'08, Elizabeth LAW'12). Both were Harlan Fiske Stone Scholars.

### **While at Barnard:**

While at Barnard, Futter was an immediately much loved president, especially by the student body. Into her first year acting as president in 1981 Futter gave birth to her first daughter, and was only the second president of the College to get pregnant while in office. "There was once another president of Barnard who got pregnant, but she never had a baby shower. Her name was Emily Jane Smith Putnam, and when she told the board of trustees in 1901 that she was to give birth, she was promptly dismissed. Miss Futter said yesterday that when she told the board, they were ecstatic."<sup>8</sup> Futter's pregnancy, on the other hand, was met with joy and coos from the Barnard student body and students and faculty threw her a baby shower.

Academically, Futter lead a major restructuring of the Barnard curriculum, and introduced the First Year Seminar program and a requirement for quantitative reasoning.<sup>9</sup> Futter's tenure also brought a major social shift. During her time Barnard became a fully residential college for the first time in the past 104 years of the college with the construction of Sulzberger Hall named after the late Barnard Trustee Iphigene Ochs Sulzberger.<sup>10</sup> The 17 story building added 400 bedrooms and lounge space. "In addition, Barnard's endowment was tripled through one \$20 million capital campaign and the launching of another for \$100 million. At \$55 million, it is already well ahead of schedule."<sup>11</sup> Futter left her position at Barnard to become the president of the American Museum of Natural History in 1993.

### **Selected Awards:**

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<sup>5</sup> <http://dataspace.princeton.edu/jspui/handle/88435/dsp01h702q7099>

<sup>6</sup> <http://dailyprincetonian.com/news/2006/01/divided-campus-reacts-to-alito-2/>

<sup>7</sup> <http://dailyprincetonian.com/2006-2007/>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.nytimes.com/1981/10/17/nyregion/about-new-york-at-barnard-teddy-bears-in-the-deanery-by-anna-quinlen.html>

<sup>9</sup> <http://barnard.edu/about/leadership/past-presidents>

<sup>10</sup> [http://www.columbia.edu/cu/record/archives/vol19/vol19\\_iss1/record191.15](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/record/archives/vol19/vol19_iss1/record191.15)

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

1989: Barnard College Distinguished Alumnae Award honoring someone who “has achieved considerable public or professional distinction and recognition in her chosen field”<sup>12</sup>

1994: Columbia University Medal for Excellence<sup>13</sup>

2001: Columbia Alumni Federation’s second annual Citation of Distinction and Merit for her accomplishments as former Barnard president and current president of the Museum of Natural History and the Rose Center for Earth and Space<sup>14</sup>

2002: Alexander Hamilton Award to “celebrate New York and honor those individuals helping to foster the revitalization of our nation’s cities”<sup>15</sup>

2006: Women in Development (WiD) New York’s Women’s Achievement Award for “extraordinary service to the field and a commitment to furthering the place of women in philanthropy”<sup>16</sup>

2008: Lawrence A. Wein Prize, along with Hon. Gerard E. Lynch LAW’75, for her work for the public good<sup>17</sup>

2014: The Rachel Carson Award, along with Kaiulani Lee, and Nell Newman, recognizes outstanding women leaders in today’s conservation movement; supports environmental opportunities for girls and young women; and seeks to educate women on important issues related to conservation and the environment

### **Selected Honorary Degrees:**

1994: Hofstra University<sup>18</sup>

1995: Smith College, LLD Doctor of Laws<sup>19</sup>

1995: LIU Post<sup>20</sup>

2000: The College of New Rochelle<sup>21</sup>

2001: Yale University, Doctor of Humane Letters<sup>22</sup>

2003: Skidmore College<sup>23</sup>

2004: Williams College, Doctor of Humane Letters<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> <http://alum.barnard.edu/s/1133/index.aspx?sid=1133&gid=1&pgid=306>

<sup>13</sup> [http://www.columbia.edu/cu/record/archives/vol19/vol19\\_iss30/record1930.23](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/record/archives/vol19/vol19_iss30/record1930.23)

<sup>14</sup> [http://www.columbia.edu/cu/record/archives/vol26/vol26\\_iss15/2615\\_Futter\\_Alumni\\_Awards.html](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/record/archives/vol26/vol26_iss15/2615_Futter_Alumni_Awards.html)

<sup>15</sup> [http://www.manhattan-institute.org/html/ah\\_2002.htm](http://www.manhattan-institute.org/html/ah_2002.htm)

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.widny.org/content/woman-achievement-award-0>

<sup>17</sup> [https://www.law.columbia.edu/media\\_inquiries/news\\_events/2008/november2008/wien\\_prize\\_1](https://www.law.columbia.edu/media_inquiries/news_events/2008/november2008/wien_prize_1)

<sup>18</sup> [http://www.hofstra.edu/About/about\\_hondegrees.html](http://www.hofstra.edu/About/about_hondegrees.html)

<sup>19</sup> [http://www.smith.edu/about\\_honorary.php](http://www.smith.edu/about_honorary.php)

<sup>20</sup> <http://demo.liu.edu/About/Administration/Honorary-Degree-Recipients/CWPost>

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.cnr.edu/honorary-degree-recipients>

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.yale.edu/opa/arc-ybc/v29.n31/story103.html>

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.skidmore.edu/scope/summer2003/oncampus/safehouse.html>

<sup>24</sup> [http://archives.williams.edu/williamshistory/commencement/2004/futter\\_cit.php](http://archives.williams.edu/williamshistory/commencement/2004/futter_cit.php)