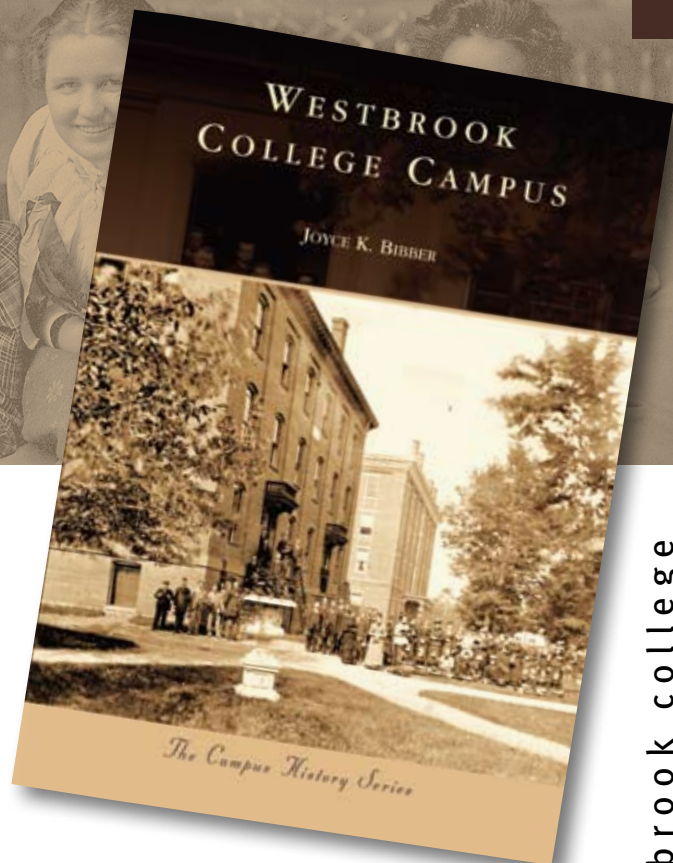


STRONG TRADITIONS

Some of UNE's most beloved traditions come from its Westbrook College heritage. The evolution of Westbrook Seminary to Westbrook Junior College to Westbrook College and finally to the University of New England is beautifully and eloquently captured by historian, preservationist, author and Westbrook Junior College alumna Joyce K. Bibber '56 in her new book, "Westbrook College Campus." Published by Arcadia Publishing in March 2009 for its Campus History Series, Bibber's book tells the WCC story through vintage images carefully selected from the campus archives.



westbrook college

An expert in campus history and preservation, Bibber also brings personal insight to her book. After graduating from Westbrook Junior College, Bibber completed her education at Barnard College and Stanford University. She then returned twice to serve as Westbrook Junior College's assistant dean. Bibber was Professor of History at the University of Southern Maine for 32 years, teaching American and Asian history.

The idea for the book was originally proposed by Roberta ("Bobby") C. Gray, WCC Honorary Alumna '00 and WCC librarian. Gray was a driving force behind the book, working tirelessly to secure funding for it.

Bibber carefully researched the Westbrook College History Collection of photographs, scrapbooks, personal papers, and other memorabilia and artifacts to compile the book, her seventh for Arcadia Publishing. She became quite a fixture at the library, "pretty much living and breathing WCC," as she relates, and logging more than 300 hours on-site conducting research in the archives. This does not include the additional time Bibber spent carefully transcribing and organizing research notes, poring over early newspaper accounts, conducting interviews in person and on the telephone, and writing the Westbrook College story.

She made some interesting discoveries along the way. She was intrigued to learn about a particular student from the class of 1901, Frank Bailey from her hometown Harpswell, who was a pharmaceutical chemist. Bailey was the "original" pre-pharmacy student, and his life and times at Westbrook Seminary were shared by Dean John Cormier at the UNE College of Pharmacy groundbreaking last year. She was also surprised to see in old photos a more diverse student body than one might expect, due to the "cosmopolitan city of Portland" in the late 1800s-early 1900s.

Bibber made another discovery with the assistance of Campus Services Manager Alan Thibeault. She had read in an 1830s article that one could see the ocean from the bell tower on campus. Bibber wanted to see if this was still true today, and Thibeault gave her a personal tour of the tower. In their journey they came across old signatures, including one of the assumed bell tower carpenter, Levi Bolton, dated May 13, 1833. "This was a fun discovery, along with many others along the way. There was a lot of enthusiasm exhibited by so many people, and this book would not have been possible without their wonderful support." Bibber acknowledges numerous people and departments in her book, including Bobby Gray, Al Thibeault, Cally Gurley, Ellen Beaulieu, Scott Marchildon, and many others.

Though several years in the making, the book's publication in 2009 is particularly fitting: June 2009 marks the 175th anniversary of the first Westbrook Seminary class, which first gathered in June 1834 in the original Seminary Building, Alumni Hall; it is also the 50th anniversary of the Maine Women Writers Collection, and UNE's new College of Pharmacy will open its doors in 2009.

"Westbrook College Campus" is available on UNE's Portland campus bookstore (suggested retail price of \$21.99), as well as many online book retailers. **Bibber will also be present during a special reception Saturday, June 6 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. during Westbrook College Reunion Weekend to sign copies of her book and share some of her stories.**