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Ursinus to Honor Eleanor Frost Snell by Establishing Chair of Health and Physical Education

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URSINUS TO HONOR ELEANOR FROST SNELL BY ESTABLISHING CHAIR OF HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Through the determined and inspired career of Eleanor Frost Snell, the name of Ursinus College has been linked irrevocably with the highest achievement in women's sports. Her teaching inspired excellence, not only on the field or court, but in the larger spheres of the liberally educated person. She corrected a student's misplaced modifier as readily as her mistaken swing of a hockey stick—and always taught that manners matter, in sports and in living. She made a personal and professional mark on her students for good, and what she did at Ursinus over more than four decades had a profound effect on women's athletics across the country.

To honor her and the department and students she served so well, Ursinus plans to establish the Eleanor Frost Snell Chair of Health and Physical Education. The fund-raising effort began officially on April 25, at a brunch at the College.

"I can think of no better way to honor Miss Snell than with an academic award, said Jen Shillingford '54, athletic director at Bryn Mawr and chairperson of the Snell Committee. "She was concerned not just about whether we won or lost a game, but whether or not we ended our sentences with the correct punctuation, whether or not we spoke clearly and concisely.

"And whether we were able to stand up for our own beliefs. She certainly helped me with assertiveness. She had a real concern for women that was about 20 years ahead of its time."

Establishing a professional chair in Miss Snell's honor is perhaps the highest academic distinction Ursinus can bestow on Miss Snell, even more than the honorary degree she received from Ursinus in 1977. It will place her name and her department among the College's other professorial chairs, which make up the "capstone" for recognition of academic excellence among the Ursinus faculty.

With the establishment of the Eleanor Frost Snell Chair in Health and Physical Education, Ursinus will be unique among its peer institutions, which have not yet acknowledged health and physical education in this important way.

Pictured here is Regina Bugg '81, Jenepher Shillingford '54, Vonnie Gros '57, Eleanor Snell, and Adele Boyd '53, at the kick-off fund-raising brunch for the Snell Chair and the dedication of the Eleanor Frost Snell softball field.