

## Pat Roman and Higher Education

Sir John Daniel, O.C.

Good afternoon. In mourning Pat's passing with you, I shall evoke her work in higher education.

Pat taught at UBC when Ted Roman interned in medicine in Vancouver. Peggy Smyth, who has accompanied me from Vancouver and is a devoted BC Lions fan, remembers Ted playing for them in that 1959-60 season.

After the move to Montreal, Pat began a remarkable four-decade association with Marianopolis College. She first lectured in English and was a member of the college council that took the courageous decisions to relinquish university status, become a CEGEP, and admit male students.

In the 1980s she became a trustee, and in the 2000s, a governor. Her long involvement with Marianopolis developed Pat's impressive skills as a bridge builder and strategic thinker: a Protestant helping Catholic nuns chart a future that blended tradition and change.

I first met Pat in 1982, when she rejoined the workforce after raising her family. I was then president of the Canadian Society for the Study of Higher Education, and we appointed Pat as our Executive Secretary. She established and operated the Society's office at McGill, creating systems, designing communications, and organising events that expanded our membership and raised the public profile of research on higher education.

This propelled her to the Corporate Higher Education Forum, created in 1983 to bring together Canada's university and business leaders. As Vice-President she oversaw a hugely productive decade during which Forum task groups, headed by either a corporate CEO or a university president, produced a series of seminal reports. *Spending Smarter*, on corporate-university collaboration in research, included a model contract still used today. *Making the Match*, addressed human resource development; and *From Patrons to Partners*, explored the radically changing landscape of corporate philanthropy.

Pat brought to this work her skills at framing issues, keeping many balls in the air as work progressed, and drafting the groups' reports. She inspired effective cooperation between the corporate and university participants and had the rare talent of being able to compensate, without giving offence, for the weaknesses of senior colleagues. When our former Governor General, David Johnston, learned of Pat's death he said simply: 'She was such a champion'.

Pat also had a stellar record of volunteer service in a dozen organisations.

Her most recent focus was the Speakers' Committee of the Women's Canadian Club of Montreal, which Kim Cavener will say more about. This remarkable organisation has attracted an extraordinary roster of speakers over its century-long history including Mackenzie King, Bertrand Russell, William Butler Yeats, and Lester Pearson. Pat's involvement re-invigorated the Club and expanded its monthly attendance – of both women and men.

In 1995, the Romans kindly invited me to stay in their basement for the month of October while I wrote a master's thesis for Concordia on 'Mega-Universities'. The final evening of that visit coincided with the count of the referendum vote. I can still picture myself with Pat and Ted in their kitchen, listening to the results while disciplining ourselves not to open the bottle of whiskey on the table until the 'No' vote pulled ahead. It was a long evening!

Thank you for this opportunity to recall Pat's exemplary leadership, both as an executive and a volunteer. I treasure her memory.