

# Mills Quarterly

Winter 2010 Alumnae Magazine

## Value added

Women's perspectives  
inform economic studies





# A family affair

By Heather Haas

When Mills announced the opportunity to name seats in the newly-renovated Jeannik Méquet Littlefield Concert Hall in winter 2009, E [redacted] '88 immediately thought of her mother, D [redacted]. "My mom couldn't afford to go to Mills, but she lived nearby and walked to Mills twice a week to take piano lessons. The 20th anniversary of her passing is this year, and I still deeply miss her. My daughter, [redacted], has now transferred to Mills, so it seemed appropriate for my mom, my daughter, and me to 'sit together' in the beautiful concert hall."

E [redacted] called her mother-in-law, Mills Trustee H [redacted] '58, who remembers, "When E [redacted] told me that she planned to name seats in the Littlefield Concert Hall to help support the renovation effort, I was all for it." Both

women describe their family as "extremely close," which meant, in this case, that H [redacted] began calling other relatives to see if they might be interested in creating a row of named seats.

In all, nine seats were named for members of the family, seven of whom attended Mills: H [redacted]; her son, W [redacted], MA '93; W [redacted] wife, E [redacted]; their daughter, K [redacted] '11; K [redacted] '88, MD, H [redacted] step-daughter and an oncologist; C [redacted], MD, H [redacted]'s niece, now a family practitioner who completed her post-baccalaureate pre-medical certificate at Mills in 1985; and E [redacted], MD, H [redacted]'s son, who completed his post-bac pre-med certificate in 1988 and now practices family medicine for the underserved.

"I wouldn't even be a part of this wonderful family if it weren't for Mills," E [redacted] explained. "In the late 1980s, I

was a resumer working on my BA, and a friend was preparing to go abroad for a semester. We threw a going-away party for her, and her fiancé brought W [redacted] to the party." E [redacted] and W [redacted] soon began dating, and E [redacted] met her future in-laws on the Mills campus. She recalls, "We attended a Shakespeare play in Lisser Hall. I was so nervous to meet H [redacted]!" E [redacted] needn't have worried, though; she and H [redacted] grew close, she and W [redacted] married and had a daughter, and W [redacted] began work on a master's degree in interdisciplinary computer science at Mills. He would drop K [redacted] off at the Children's School on his way to class. E [redacted] commented, "We have more generations of girls in the family who are growing up and hearing about Mills, so we may have some additional Bent Twigs in the future."

The entire family plans to visit the Littlefield Concert Hall—and their seats—far into the future. All say that Mills has been an important part of their lives, and their relationship to the College is one of the many ties that binds them.

*When you make a gift to name one of the Littlefield Concert Hall's 442 fixed seats, your name—or the name of a relative, friend, or professor you choose to honor—will be engraved on a brass nameplate on the seat's armrest. Two donation levels are available: with a gift of \$2,500, you may name a seat on the main level, which is closest to the stage. With a gift of \$1,500, you may name a seat in the upper tier.*

*To name a seat—or seats—for your entire family—contact Allison Murdock, donor relations coordinator, at 510.430.2301 or amurdock@mills.edu.*



DANA DAVIS

**Best seats in the house:** The [redacted] and [redacted] families gather in the Littlefield Concert Hall. Front row, left to right: W [redacted], MA '93; H [redacted] '58; C [redacted] '85, MD. Back row, left to right: E [redacted] '88; K [redacted] '11; and K [redacted] '88, MD. Not pictured: E [redacted] '88, MD.