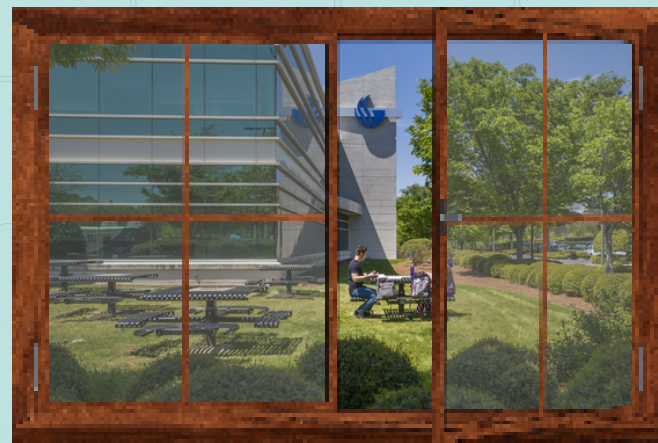


# The History of Women in Higher Education

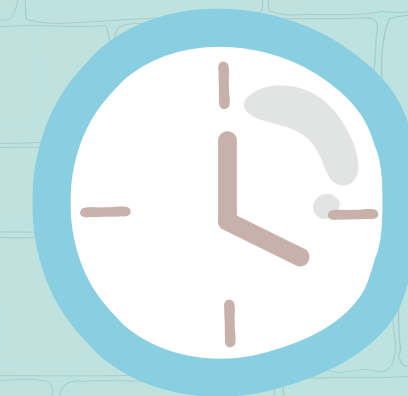
By: Hanah Feinstein





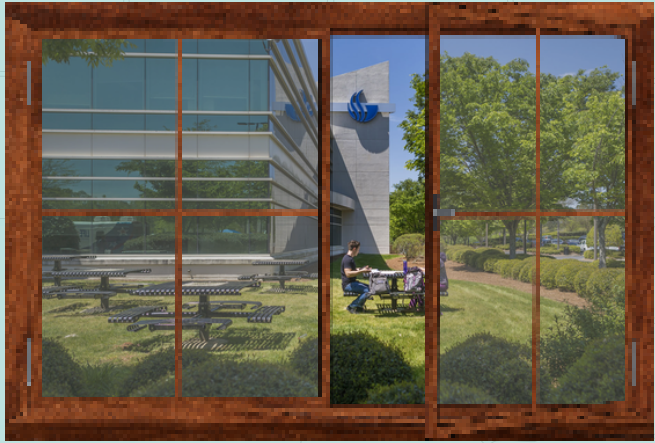
# Hello!

Hi class! I'm Hanah Feinstein, and evident by the fact I am writing this blog... I am a woman in higher education. I am a woman in the 21st century getting my college degree virtually in the middle of a global pandemic. (Woah that's a lot going on!) Throughout this year, I have been wondering what historical events resulted in my ability as a woman to be here in college. So myself and virtual me have stepped into this virtual classroom to research and discover the history of women in education.



**Virtual me**



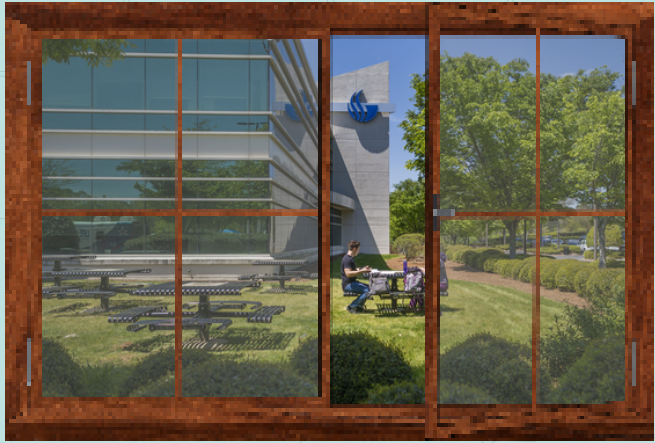


## **Why is the history of women in higher education important?**

My mother got her master's degree in the 90s, and my grandmother got her bachelor's degree in the 60s. All of the women in my life had the opportunity to go to college, so I rarely think about a time when women were not given this opportunity. I take for granted my ability to be here in class today, so I wanted to investigate everything that lead up to this point of me being here. I wanted to see the history of women in higher education. What was the culture like before women could go to college? What was the earliest form of higher education for women? When did universities become coeducational? And what are the present-day challenges that women still face in higher education? Through research utilizing Georgia State University's online library, I was able to uncover all of this.







## **The role of female seminaries.**

Before women had any opportunity for education, they were expected to stay at home and take care of the children. There was not an option for women to pursue a career or seek knowledge. Seminaries were the first step to women joining higher education. Studying and learning the Bible was an early opportunity for women to learn how to read and teach (Welch and Abraham).





## Oberlin College

"Oberlin is a true pathbreaker in American education. This liberal arts college in Ohio was the first school to accept not only women as well as men, in 1837, but black students as well as white, in 1835" (The First 10 U.S. Colleges to Go Co-ed). Oberlin College is the first trailblazing college to become coeducational and integrate. Oberlin was prominent in the abolition movement, and their advocacy went all the way into the classroom.



**Coeducation is happening! I think that deserves a cheers!**







**Mississippi  
College**



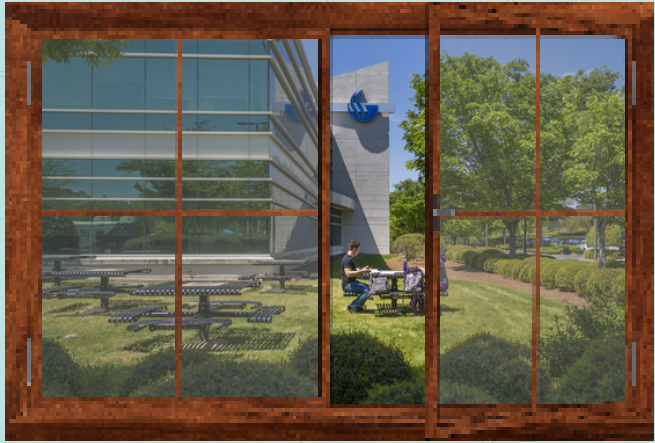
**Alice Robinson and  
Catherine Hall**

Alice Robinson and Catherine Hall were the first women to earn degrees from Mississippi College, the first documented coeducational college (Goldin and Lawrence).



**Woohoo first  
women to  
earn degrees!**



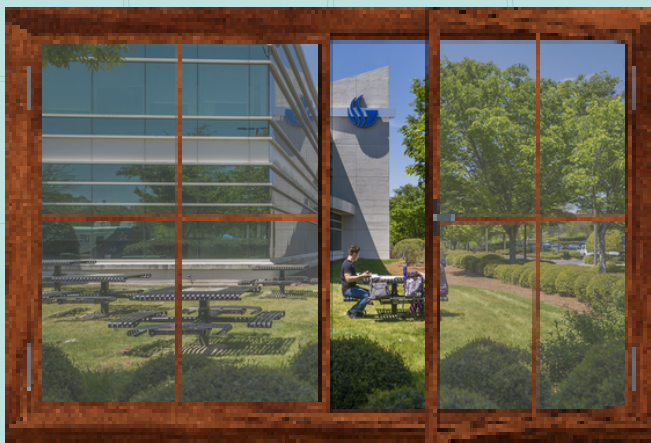


## **Women in higher education today: the achievements and the struggles.**

Higher education for women has come a long way but there are still struggles that need to be overcome. "Women now receive 57 percent of all bachelor of arts degrees in the United States, and 97 percent of them are awarded by coeducational institutions" (Goldin and Lawrence 377). According to Harvard Professors Goldin and Lawrence, today more than half of the bachelor of arts degrees are awarded to women. This is an amazing accomplishment considering less than 200 years ago women were not even allowed to go to college. But now the wage gap plagues America as women with the same degrees as men are still paid less. This results in more college debt for women. "As long as the job market remains discriminatory, women and students of color who take on the same amount of debt as white men will end up paying more in the long term as the interest on their loans compounds" (Kahn). As Kahn argues in this Times opinion piece, the access to education alone is not enough, society needs to implement actions to eradicate workplace discrimination and end the wage gap.







**Thanks for  
tuning in!**

Higher education for women has come a long way! From seminaries to the first coeducational opportunities to now has improved and continues to improve. There is still a long way to go in the fight for equal opportunities for women. Continue to support women in higher education and advocate for everyone to have the right to the pursuit of knowledge!





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