

**Williams College Oral History Project Interview with Lynda Bundtzen
August 14, 2008**

Interview Length: 35 pages

Lynda Bundtzen (1946) came to Williams in 1972. She was the first woman hired in the English Department.

In her second interview with Charles Alberti, Bundtzen—a Sylvia Plath scholar—discusses her third book, about Plath’s former husband, the poet Ted Hughes. She goes on to discuss Plath and her scholarly work in the field, the course she teaches on long films, the English department and tenure.

Bundtzen then gives short attention to the Williams presidents she’s known, talks about her experience as a fellow at the Oakley Center, and the sabbaticals she’s taken. She then talks about the college’s efforts to diversify its student body, her own experience as a first-generation college student, and her hopes for the college’s continued attention to financial aid. She briefly discusses the “new” academic buildings at the end of her brief second interview.

The transcript of this interview and the accompanying audio file (if available) may be accessed only in the Archives/Chapin Reading Room.