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***Josephine Langworthy Rathbone Karpovich:* Physical Educator, ACSM Founder and In-law of the Springfield College Family**

Recently, historians have begun to examine the role which women played in the development of the field of physical education. Women's health, and the discourse surrounding this issue in the nineteenth century, has been the focus of much of this scholarship. However, few historians have given attention to the role of women as scientific researchers in departments of physical education. An analysis of the careers of selected women in physical education provides some basic insight into the role which women played in the development of a research ethos in the field. Opportunities for women in physical education and exercise science surged during the early part of the twentieth century and until World War II some were able to establish and conduct scientific research into the effects of physical activity on the exercising body. Their laboratories and research agendas were not extensive but a few contributed significantly to research in the scientific realm of physical education. This paper examines the life and career of one such woman using sources from the archives of Teacher's College - Columbia University, Wellesley College, and Springfield College.

Dr. Josephine Langworthy Rathbone spent most of her career at Teacher's College, Columbia University. She received her BA and MA from Wellesley College where she worked in the physiology lab of Eugene Howe, a supportive mentor who trained a number of women physiologists. Rathbone, like a number of women from Wellesley and Mount Holyoke Colleges, spent time working at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. Her Ph.D. thesis at Columbia was supervised, in part, by the eminent psychologist Leta S. Hollingsworth. Rathbone's publications include two books, *Corrective Physical Education* and *Relaxation* which both went through a number of editions. In 1945 she married Peter Karpovich, the head of the exercise physiology lab at Springfield College, and became a member of the Springfield College Family in one of the only ways a woman could enter the all-male institution: by marriage. She became a charter member of the American College of Sports Medicine in 1956, the only woman to be a member at that time. Rathbone's research work demonstrated that her scientific training enabled her to better understand questions that related to health and physical education. She did not, however, train a cadre of graduate students to follow in her footsteps, nor did she publish in major scientific journals. Although she was a valuable member of ACSM, she almost certainly joined at the instigation of her husband, Peter Karpovich, and not as a result of her research career.