

Rebecca Wesson Darwin '75 (A.B.)

Rebecca Darwin's career at the summit of the New York City publishing world should inspire every student who comes to Carolina without a clear idea of what they want to do after college.

One of the rising young stars at Condé Nast, the magazine empire owned by publishing czar Samuel Newhouse, Rebecca recently was named publisher of *Woman* magazine, following a three-year stint in the same capacity at *The New Yorker*.

Before that, she paid her dues for eight years at *Gentlemen's Quarterly*, starting as an editorial assistant ("a glorified go-for," she says) in 1977 and eventually rising to director of marketing.

That's a pretty impressive track record for a liberal arts major who left Carolina with a degree in history and no coherent career plans. "When I started at Chapel Hill in 1971, I had a vague idea of becoming a curator of an art museum," she says. "Then I toyed with the idea of law school.

"But I never quite decided, and as a consequence, I was exposed to a lot of courses in a lot of different departments. That kind of general background has proved to be very beneficial for me in the publishing business," she adds.

Adds Dean Gillian Cell of the College of Arts and Sciences: "Many of today's students are extremely career-minded, and they use their college experience as a way to get a head start on life. Rebecca's career shows the relevance of a liberal arts degree in the professional setting."

Having achieved many of her career goals, Rebecca has begun devoting considerably more time to her alma mater. She serves on the External Advisory Committee of the Institute for Arts and Humanities, and has become very active in the New York City alumni chapter.

She has also made herself accessible to Carolina students interested in publishing or writing careers. "I tell them to take as many different kinds of courses as they can," she says. "I also tell them not to be afraid of starting at the bottom and then working just as hard as they know how."