Barbara Goldsmith Discusses
Marie Curie Biography at Fales

‘Obsessive Genius’ Draws a Diverse Crowd
Engaged with Women in Science

Noted author, scholar and historian Barbara Goldsmith, interviewed by veteran ABC journalist Lynn Sherr, discussed her latest book at Fales on March 2. Obsessive Genius: The Inner World of Marie Curie has won Ms. Goldsmith wide critical acclaim and has introduced a diverse audience to the life and work of a brilliant, driven, and pioneering scientist. The audience that gathered for the March 2 discussion reflected the wide appeal of Ms. Goldsmith’s latest work and included students and educators in the sciences, history, women’s studies, and journalism.

Ms. Goldsmith’s and Ms. Sherr’s dialogue was introduced by Dr. Tamar Schlick, NYU Professor in Chemistry, Mathematics, and Computer Science, and founder of WoW, a support group for women in science and co-sponsor of the event. Dr. Schlick emphasized that the ‘sad, touching, heroic, and unique aspects’ of Marie Curie’s life provided an important context for discussing the many challenges for women in science today, including the competing demands of family, home, and the lab, the high pressure of success, and the important role of male mentors.

Responding to questions raised by Ms. Sherr, Ms. Goldsmith gave the audience a compelling picture of Marie Curie. Her thought-provoking insights into the life of Marie Curie shed new light on the paths she broke for women scientists, the present state of women in the lab, and the future for women’s equality across professions. The enthusiastic audience had many questions, and attendees had the opportunity to more closely engage with Ms. Goldsmith at a book signing following the discussion.

Obsessive Genius is not the first of Ms. Goldsmith’s books to receive wide literary and public acclaim. Her publications also include The Straw Man, Little Gloria...Happy at Last, Johnson v. Johnson, and Other Powers: The Age of Suffrage, Spiritualism and the Scandalous Victoria Woodhull. She has received numerous awards for her literary accomplishments; her honors include election to the Academy of Arts and Sciences as well as the President’s Commission on the Celebration of Women in American History.