Spring 1980

Women's Studies Newsletter March 1980

Women's Studies

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Irene Little-Marenin, Astronomy, delivered a lecture with her husband at the University of Toledo, March 6, on "The Carbon Isotope Ratio in Late Type Stars."


Janet Singer, assistant professor of Dance, will direct the spring concert of student and faculty choreography. The concert will be presented on April 10, 11, 12 in the Ace Morgan Theatre at eight o'clock p.m.

Elizabeth Freydberg, Theatre, will be directing the production of Anton Checkov's The Seagull. Ms. Freydberg will direct the play as she interprets it, as a comedy which "discloses a profound and harsh reality." The Seagull will be presented to the Denison community beginning the last weekend in April.

Ann Fitzgerald, Acting Dean of Educational Services, served in January at Hiram College on administrative policies concerning women. In addition, she has met with a wide variety of committees and campus groups as part of her work on the board of the GLCA Ford Foundation Grant in Women's Studies.

Juliana Mulroy, Biology, spoke for the Ohio University Botany Department on February 12 on the following subject: "Saxifraga cespitosa in the Americas: history of a long-distance disjunct." On March 8 she spoke on a Women in Science panel at Oberlin College's weekend conference "Campus and Community Struggles: The Women's Movement in the 1980's."

Nan Nowik, English/Women's Studies, spoke at the Oberlin Women's Conference on March 8 on the subject of feminism in the classroom. Students participated in a discussion of the possibilities and traps of non-hierarchal teaching and learning.

Mary Margaret Fonow, Sociology/Anthropology, will conduct a workshop on job satisfaction for a forum entitled "Women at Work: Pink Collar Perspectives" on April 25 in Columbus. In addition, she is reviewing a book about female office workers for the journal, Social Forces.
WOMEN IN SPORTS

by Katie Grossman

With the passage of Title IX by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare in 1972, the feminist movement in America made its first major step toward achieving equality between men and women in the area of education. Simply stated, Title IX established regulations and detailed criteria for identifying and eliminating sex discrimination in educational programs and activities.

This amendment has important implications for women athletes. Title IX, in its implementation of requirements to prevent sex discrimination, has greatly strengthened the power of such organizations as the AIAW (Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women). The AIAW, formed in 1971, is the national governing organization for women athletes, the female counterpart to the men's NCAA (National College Athletic Association). Title IX has required colleges to expand and upgrade their women's athletic programs while the AIAW has set guidelines and governing rules for those programs. For example, Title IX has aided in the governing functions of AIAW by requiring schools to enact certain basic regulations such as providing financial aid based on athletic ability; dividing scholarship funds in proportion to the number of male versus female athletes participating in their programs; ensuring equivalence in other athletic benefits and opportunities such as the amount of administrative and clerical support made available; effective accommodation of student interest and capabilities; provision of medical training and services. Consequently, the AIAW is able to sponsor thirty-nine intercollegiate sports championships for women at the national level.

Today, when interest in women's athletics is increasing at a steady rate, the AIAW has become a "uniquely innovative approach to athletics itself which will eventually benefit all athletes, men and women," says Dr. Elizabeth Van Horn, Director of Women's Sports at Denison. In spite of AIAW's tremendous success, some diverging opinions between men and women have led to a serious conflict in the athletic world. For the first time AIAW received a million dollar contract from NBC for the rights to telecast Division II and III national championships. Ironically, the NCAA, at approximately the same time, voted in its January 1980 meeting to also offer Division II and III championships for women, beginning in 1981-82. It is quite strange that the NCAA should take such a sudden interest in women's athletics, especially since they ardently opposed the passage of Title IX, and even went so far as to lobby against it. It appears as if by offering women championships, the NCAA is in effect enacting one step of a plan to incorporate the AIAW into the NCAA, a move which is primarily profit-oriented. In part, intercollegiate sports has become a "big business" and the NCAA, which is presently an all-male organization, would actually be seeking to form a monopoly by opening its doors to women. Should this happen, many of the recently gained opportunities afforded through the AIAW would be dissolved.
The AIAW currently offers Denison women the opportunity to attend nationals in seventeen sports, while the NCAA proposal would limit attendance to the five major sports: field hockey, basketball, swimming, volleyball, and tennis. This in part explains why the NCAA's intention to offer Division II and III championships for women poses a problem for women at smaller universities. Moreover, membership in either the NCAA or the AIAW is an institutional membership. That is, the presidents of the colleges ultimately decide whether their school should belong to these organizations. Until now, the question of membership has presented no problem. Denison, for example, automatically belongs to both the AIAW and the NCAA. However, the NCAA's proposal to sponsor championships for women threatens the very existence of the AIAW. Because the NCAA proposes to defray the costs of a team going to nationals by allocating up to eighty percent of costs, the AIAW has been placed in a very difficult position. A young institution compared to the seventy-five year old NCAA, the AIAW does not have the endowments and political backing necessary to compete with the NCAA's offer.

The NCAA proposal, however enticing from a financial point of view, would "represent a significant blow to the aspirations of women to determine the athletic governing structure which would best serve the needs of female student-athletes," states Christine Grant, AIAW president. While the AIAW is presently unable to defray the costs of going to a national championship, it is not often that a school like Denison will make it to the nationals, and the overall benefits of remaining part of the AIAW far outweigh the financial lure of the NCAA.

What it really comes down to is a question of human rights. As females and as athletes we should ask ourselves, does the NCAA have the right to threaten the existence of the AIAW, an organization that has helped female student athletes and their coaches develop a unique and viable national governing structure for women athletes?

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NEW WOMEN'S COORDINATOR

On March 21, Provost Lou Brakeman approved Committee W's choice of Beverly Purrington as the new Women's Coordinator for the 1980-81 school year. Purrington came to Denison's Sociology/Anthropology Department in September of 1979; prior to that she was a graduate student at Michigan State University. The Newsletter will interview her in a future issue to determine her views on the position she has just accepted.
Cleveland Hall, which hovers between College Hill and Granville, is the studio arts building. Artists paint in the room that was once the women's gymnasium. Sculptors have their own space, as do printers, photographers, and potters. Art majors who have centered their interests in ceramics spend their time on the second floor of the building, throwing, shaping, and moulding pieces of clay into art.

Lynnette Hesser and Kris Poole, senior women art majors, have been interested in ceramics for the past three years, although both women entered the art department through sculpture. Kris feels more at home with functional pottery than sculpture. "Women are defined as creative beings." Poole believes, citing the history of pottery and the role of women such as Maria Martinez. Kris continued to explain that although art schools have traditionally been attended by men, women have been involved in art as craft much longer. "Good crafts-personship comes from a male perspective, and men set the standards for beauty. Women either have to set new standards or fit into the ones that have already been established." Lynnette feels that although it is still difficult for many people to realize that women, too, are good artists, such prejudices are beginning to diminish.

Lynnette is enthusiastic about the art department, noting, with Kris, the cooperation among art students. "People in the ceramics department work as a family," Lynnette says, "we're out to help each other." Both Kris and Lynnette are satisfied with Denison instead of an art school, feeling that a liberal arts education is important. Lynnette adds that the students have worked to improvements in the art department facilities, and that there have been a number of positive changes in the last four years.

Currently, Lynnette is president of the art co-op. She is working closely the senior Virgil Gerlach, vice-president, in planning the Fine Arts Festival. This spring they will bring in speakers and professionals for workshops. The festival will also include demonstrations, a ceramics firing, and a dance show. Lynnette has noticed a larger number of art majors in the past few years, as well as stronger campus interest in the activities of the art department. She feels this is due to the growing exposure of the work of art students at displays and sales like the ones at the Fine Arts Festival. "People see the work and the work sparks interest."
Women: Tapping a New Energy Resource

by

Cornelia Carey

Women control 80% of consumer purchases, play a major role in managing family budgets, and control, to a large degree, energy use in the residential sector. They are a growing element in the work force of the United States, and yet few energy programs have specifically addressed women. Much of the material being published on energy has failed to reach or motivate women. Could it be that women are reluctant to become involved in matters that seem technical in nature? Yet the potential of women in the field of energy is, as Consumer Action Now describes it, "a vast untapped" energy resource. With the economic power that women possess, their involvement in the energy field could bring positive change. However, this potential has yet to be tapped, as illustrated by the conspicuous lack of women in the Department of Energy, in solar engineering, in local energy groups... The list goes on.

Currently, our economy is based on increasing energy production. However, with a dwindling supply of fossil fuels and the hazards and growing unacceptability of nuclear power, we must look to conservation and renewable resources such as solar power. Women must take part in the planning and implementation of the solar era to assure their place in these new fields. A study commissioned by the Joint Economic Committee of Congress estimates that if the country chooses a solar and conservation path rather than reliance on conventional unrenewables, we will net as many as two million jobs by the year 2000. Needless to say, this will mean the opening of a whole range of jobs, from construction to architecture. For women entrepreneurs, solar business represents a chance to get in on the ground floor of the industry. This is woman's chance to shape a new world based on safe renewable energy.

Women, regardless of whether they decide to enter into the solar energy and growing conservation-oriented industries, should learn the new energy language—it will undoubtedly prove useful even in the home. Women going into the energy field with a basic knowledge of what energy renewables are all about will enter into a sector of the economy and economic change which is often free of many forms of traditional sexism. This is itself a call to women to get involved in energy and energy-related fields.

Women have organized throughout history to bring about social change. Recently, they have played key roles in the civil rights, consumer, and peace movements, out of which grew the new and powerful women's movement. Women, given the proper tools, can lead the movement for the wise use of our vanishing resources and for the development of clean, renewable energy resources.
In what might become a regular series, this article will explore women as pioneers in the academic world. We will look at the events which eventually led women to pursue careers and professions which had previously been closed to women.

Anthropologist Ruth Benedict was the first prominent woman in her field, and a foremother to Margaret Mead.

Ruth Benedict, anthropologist and first woman to attain status as an important social scientist, was born June 5, 1887 in a farming community of Northern New York. Her father died when she was still a young child, leaving Ruth's mother with two daughters. Forced into independence, Ruth's mother took several jobs as teacher and later as a librarian. Although the savings of the Benedict family was minimal, Ruth was able to continue her education through college. She graduated from Vassar in 1909 after majoring in English Literature.

Like her mother before her, Ruth entered into the teaching profession. She taught for two years in a private all-girls school in California. Here Ruth felt the loneliness and isolation of being single. The life of a school teacher depressed her. That, combined with watching her sister's happy family grow larger, led Ruth to the idea that women want love and want to be loved. She says in her journal,

So much of the trouble is because I am a woman.  
There is one crown which is perhaps worth it all--  
a great love, a quiet home, and children.

In August 1913, Ruth fell in love with Stanley Benedict, a brother of a Vassar friend. She reveals her feelings:

We turn in our sleep and groan because we are parasites--we women--because we produce nothing, say nothing, find our whole world in the love of a man--For Shame!

Despite her inner conflicts, Ruth married Stanley in 1914. Her new husband was embarking on a promising career as a biochemist, a career which would eventually bring him recognition.

Ruth lived with her husband in the suburban community of Long Island. Although she enjoyed the freedom of her unstructured days at first, she eventually became tired of suburban living. Having children was the hope that Ruth put into her marriage. She longed and waited for the family she felt would bring about an end to her restlessness. But after five years of waiting and hoping, Ruth began to desire her own life and her own work:

I must have my world too, my outlet, my chance to put forth my effort.
--If I had children, or were expecting one, it would call a truce to these promptings, I suppose. But surely it would only be a truce—it would sign no permanent terms of peace with them . . .

During these years Ruth tried teaching and social work as a means of occupying herself. But she told her husband she felt these outlets could not satisfy her, and she wondered if she would ever find anything that could. She then began working on a biography of the life of Mary Wollstonecraft which she entitled The Adventure in Womanhood. When the manuscript was rejected by Houghton Mifflin, however, the setback led Ruth to organize day nurseries as a way of keeping busy.

In 1919, for health reasons, Stanley needed to spend time in rural New Hampshire. Life in the country bored Ruth, and once again trying to occupy herself, Ruth attended lectures at the New School for Social Research. She was holding on to her marriage, still hoping to have children. Finally she learned that she could not have children unless she underwent a serious operation, an operation that Stanley refused to give his consent to. Ruth then realized that she must commit herself to her own life’s work.

She discovered anthropology through the lectures of Alexander Goldweiser and Elsie Crew Parsons. In 1921 Ruth entered Columbia to earn a degree under Franz Boas. She lived alone in a room near Columbia but returned to her house and Stanley on the weekends. Although she was fast becoming an independent woman, she could not separate herself completely from her husband. After graduation, she taught as an assistant to Boas at Barnard, and it was there she met and befriended Margaret Mead, an undergraduate student. Mean remembered Ruth as a woman caught between marriage and her profession.

In 1923 through a series of one-year appointments, Ruth worked as a lecturer at Columbia. Finally in 1931 she separated from Stanley. She also obtained an assistant professorship, although Columbia would not consider her for either full professorship or for tenure, as women were still unable to compete with men for the higher University positions.

Nevertheless, Ruth kept making headway in her field, doing field studies in Zuni, Pena, Blana, and Cochiti. She helped to bring about an awareness of cultural relativity and published her best known work, Patterns of Culture, to emphasize the culturally distinct ways in which individuals of different cultures attained culturally regular character structures. In 1947 Columbia established a program headed by Benedict called "Research in Contemporary Culture.

Soon Benedict became known outside of her profession when in 1943 she published "The Races of Mankind," a scientific explanation of race. She maintained that differences in intelligence scores of black and white men who served in the U.S. Army during World War I were explained by differences in income, education, cultural advantages, and other opportunities. She also lectured and wrote on race, war, and issues of democracy.

(article continued on page 9)
On Wednesday, February 20, the Denison Women's Resource Center celebrated its first anniversary. Established as a lounge, a library, and a study room, the Center currently has approximately 175 books, subscriptions to several periodicals, and an extensive file system useful for student research on women's issues. Many people brought additional books to the celebration, increasing the collection by about twenty-five much needed books.

Both Ann Fitzgerald, Dean of Educational Services, and Lou Brakeman, Provost, made speeches in which they put into perspective the role of the Women's Resource Center on the Denison campus. Fitzgerald commented that ten years ago at Denison there were few women on the faculty. There were no administrative policies relating specifically to women. "There were no affirmative action plans, no women's studies courses, no women's health care clinic, no Title IX, no GE requirement focussing on women or minorities, little consciousness of sexism, and certainly no Women's Resource Center. At the beginning of this new decade and the first anniversary of the Women's Resource Center, we celebrate the achievement of all of these gains for women at Denison."

Lou Brakeman asked the people present to consider some important questions: Has the presence of this Center contributed to the goals and the vision of a nonsexist civilization? Has the Center worked as a force for attitude change? "Attitude change is not easy to measure, of course," he remarked, but the presence of the Center and the literature it contains "operate to change the perspectives, the hopes, the values of women and of men."

Calling attention to the well-traveled location of the Center, Brakeman said that it draws attention to women's issues at Denison. "The dedication of space demonstrates a commitment to the importance of women's concerns. It may be a signal to women that there is support for their coming together to discuss common concerns. It may be a signal to prospective women faculty that there is an environment here that they feel will be supportive. The printed materials may open up new avenues and possibilities; the conversations may permit the articulation of feelings previously unheard; the people encountered may become friends."

As part of the celebration, sections of Adrienne Rich's poem "Transcendental Etude" were read by five Denison students—M. J. Hampel, Martha VanderVoort, Kathy Wilshusen, Cathy Desmond, and Kris Poole. The readings began with a passage especially appropriate to the celebration of a resource like the Center: "No one every told us we had to study our lives,/ make of our lives a study, as if learning natural history/ or music..."
Women's Coordinator Nan Nowik expressed her thanks to the many people who brought gift books to the party. She pointed out that the Center, usually open four hours each weekday, contains periodicals such as Signs, Ms., Essence, and Spokeswoman as well as files and bibliographies on issues such as health care, rape, battered women, abortion, women in the labor force, and anorexia.

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APRIL STUDENT WOMEN'S STUDIES CONFERENCE

Students and faculty are invited to attend the GLCA Women's Studies Student Conference to be held April 18-20 at The College of Wooster. The Conference Planning Committee hopes to address the diverse needs of students on the different GLCA campuses by encouraging all interested persons to submit abstracts of papers and programming proposals by March 28th to the Wooster Women's Resource Center, The College of Wooster, Wooster, Ohio 44691. Sign-ups for the conference Talent Show are due at the same time. A preliminary registration fee of $5 per person should be sent to the Women's Resource Center by April 5th.

While the title for the conference has not yet been chosen, student planners want to continue the theme of the GLCA annual Women's Studies conference, "A Feminist Transformation of the Academy." They intend to include workshops on topics such as sexism in the workplace, getting non-traditional jobs, homophobia, women in the arts, socialization patterns of men and women, where is Women's studies going? and health care on college campuses. For further information, contact M. J. Hampel (#1128) or Clay VanBatenburg (#233).

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Academic Foremothers continued

In 1947 and 1948 Benedict served as the president of the American Anthropological Association. Finally in 1948 Columbia formally recognized Ruth Benedict and made her a full professor. But that fall she died of coronary thrombosis at the age of 61. Today Ruth Benedict is remembered as a leader in a learned profession, as a great anthropologist, and as a pioneer woman academic struggling for her independence and her own life's work.
War and the Draft: Another American Decision
by
Ellen Brumback

It was during this past January, in the TV lounge of Crawford Hall, that I began to seriously consider war in human terms. In the past, my image of war was constructed around economic factors, historical accounts, and literary representations. But the night when President Carter gave his State of the Union Address I was forced to leave this academic nearsightedness behind. The skin on the back of my neck contracted as he called for reinstating draft registration. My mind reeled out pictures of qualified male friends and relatives. At this point I had to strain to hear what was being said because a basketball game had just been completed on campus and students who entered the room stopped to talk about it. I was amazed by the nonchalance portrayed at such a critical moment. But this critical stage was soon surpassed when the President strongly suggested that the House pass a bill allowing for the subsequent registration of women.

I've relived this moment many times since, while trying to analyze my reactions to this measure. My first honest emotions were those of anger and cold irrational fear. But then what is war? It isn't a conscious effort on the part of uniformed men to kill as many opponents as possible. On the contrary, it is a political instrument of force used in obtaining policy goals. Men aren't genetically endowed with the ability to kill any more than women are. What the questions of war and the draft ultimately boil down to is a series of complex value judgments which should be recognized if not analyzed.

First of all, there is a split between the anti-war and pro-war factions. As presented during the Viet Nam War years and continuing today, many Americans see war as a power ploy, one which produces unnecessary unrest in our own country. They feel that there is too much meddling in the politics of other nations and that, in return for this, America is merely left with mentally and physically disabled veterans as well as countless tombstones. Such was the case with Viet Nam, but in the case of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, many more citizens are in favor of war than before, as seen by demonstrations on college campuses today. This pro-war sentiment suggests that America is responsible for preserving our ideals of freedom when another free country is threatened by a socialist take-over.

Two other groups to distinguish between are those who are against the draft and those who are for the draft. Most of their arguments overlap those displayed above with one distinctive exception, the right to compulsory registration. The anti-draft group believes that no person should be required by law to fight and that voluntary forces should preside. At the other end of the spectrum are those who
believe in the draft and feel it is necessary in order to defend our country in the best way possible. This brings up the question of the strength and size of the volunteer system. Would it alone be enough to overcome any powerful opponent?

The last of the group-splits to be defined is that opposing and defending the draft of women. Some people feel that women should be drafted because they are seeking the same rights and duties of men. Others feel that women shouldn't be drafted because since the ERA hasn't been ratified, thus formally including women in the constitution, women should not be eligible for military service. A third group, often feminist, holds that because of profound anti-war beliefs, women must not now participate in the killing of human beings.

As a post-Viet Nam product, I can't truly grasp the basis behind the anti-war sentiments, yet many of my contemporaries can and do. I've learned much about friends and even strangers while discussing, often heatedly, the various stands on war and draft registration. Most surprising to me was the number of women, including feminists, who say that they would opt for impregnation before combat. Another popular choice was emigration to another country. In fact, the range of solutions and possibilities is just about as varied as the group representing them.

Obviously there are numerous sentiments which both overlap and oppose each other in the same breath. But it is encouraging to hear those around me concerned, in one way or another, with a current issue. In what other political society would so many opinions be as freely and honestly voiced as well as published? Though the choice in the long run may be politically cut and dried, each citizen has had the opportunity to participate in some way or another in the decision-making process.

The Denison Women's Studies Newsletter--

Women's Coordinator: Nancy Nowik
Assistant Editors: Ellen Brumback
            Cathy Desmond
During the month of January, many Denison students take advantage of various off-campus internships. We interviewed five women to learn their responses and reactions to their January positions.

Senior Bridget Bacon interned with Planned Parenthood of Newark, Ohio, working closely with a professional counsellor. She learned how to advise women with problem pregnancies, talking with the clients about their various options and trying to insure that their decisions would be individual and intelligent ones based on factual information combined with supportive counselling.

Bridget regards the internship as a "rewarding and valuable experience," one in which she was able to work with women, learn counselling skills, and contribute to the community. But she mentions that the job is often a difficult, even painful one, especially when the women are very young or lacking the money to get abortions, should they decide they want them.

In addition to her counselling, Bridget was involved in patient education. She often accompanied Planned Parenthood educators when they made presentations at area high schools, and she directed a one-hour class on methods of birth control and birth control procedures.

Cornelia Carey, also a senior, worked with Consumer Action Now, a New York-based non-profit organization seeking to make industry product-reliable. The group was formed in 1970 by 25 women who were concerned with consumer protection.

As a research assistant, Cornelia contributed to the Women's Energy Tool Kit, an energy education package. She also researched the topic of consumer protection in the field of individual solar energy installation. Of Consumer Action Now, Cornelia says, "They are dedicated to educating women in alternative energy, particularly solar energy."

Senior Cathy Shine interned with Prentice Marshall, a judge in the United States District Court in Chicago. Cathy attended the judge's court sessions, observing plea hearings, sentencing, and sentencing hearings as well as the conduct of the lawyers. Through discussion Cathy learned a great deal about the strategy and tactics of certain kinds of lawyers, particularly corporate lawyers. She also was able to visit a law school and a federal correctional institute. Cathy remembers her January term as a useful experience working with a judge who is very supportive of women in the law.

Erin McEntee spent the month in Washington, D.C., working with the Women's Equity Action League Education and Legal Defense Fund. She interned with students from William Smith, Oberlin, and Mount Holyoke in the Sex Equity in Sports Division. About her duties, Erin says, "I mainly wrote responses to requests for information about getting women on men's teams and about equity pay for women coaches. I also answered a hotline in the office." In addition, Erin put together a packet of information on coach's pay and sex discrimination and found that she had learned a good deal about Title IX by the end of the
month. Living with two Denison graduates during the month, she tried to set up feminist support groups in local D.C. high schools. "It's surprising and encouraging to see such young women involved and aware," she concluded.

Claudia Newman spent the month in New York with NBC television. Arranging the internship on her own, she worked with the division responsible for "Saturday Night Live," "The Midnight Special," "The Today Show," "The Tonight Show," "Tomorrow," and the "Sunday Night Movie." She observed the sales representatives as they sold commercials for these shows. Besides watching the taping of some of these shows, she went to sales meetings and observed the proceedings. Claudia thinks she gained valuable experience. "You never really think about everything that goes on in order to put even one show on the air." she said. And though she is still uncertain about her plans for the future, she finds her month in New York a good introduction to the world of work.

** MELLON PROGRAM CONTINUES TO PROVIDE PROGRAMS ON CAREERS **

Capt. Grace Murray Hopper as Visiting Professional

A pioneer in computer science, Capt. Grace Murray Hopper of the U.S. Naval Reserve, will be on the Denison Campus as a Mellon Visiting Professional on Tuesday, April 1. Her address, entitled "The Computerization of Society: Is There No Limit?" is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. in Herrick Hall.

Capt. Hopper has spent her entire career in non-traditional settings and has earned a status of prestige and honor accorded few women in her profession.

Career Exploration Trips

During Spring Break twelve Denison students participated in Mellon-sponsored Career Exploration Trips to Washington, D.C., and the greater New York City area. Designed to enable students to research career opportunities for women, the trips featured interviews with professional women in such areas as law, banking, government, education, science, engineering, public relations, marketing, and sales.

Participating in the Washington, D.C., trip were: Ann Pollock, Lise Kirk, Lai Yin Chow, Tammy Reichenbach, Susan Altemus, Darrel DeBerry, and Pat Somers, Director of the Career/Life Planning Office. Included in the New York group were: Juliann Cecchi, Pam Warbasse, Rachelle Lovelady, Leslie Phillips, Lianne Brickman, Joan Sawyer, and Robin Bartlett, acting chairperson of the Economics Department.

During Women's Week both groups will report their findings and insights of career options for women.

Resources

The Mellon Office has established a file of information on numerous careers, with special emphasis on opportunities for women. Also available is a selection of cassette tapes of interviews of Denison alums in a variety of careers. Call the Mellon Office (Ext. 366), mornings only, for more information.
In each issue, the Denison University Women's Studies Newsletter interviews a woman faculty member, student, administrator, or supportive staff member. This month's interview is with Betsy Roberts.

by

Ellen Brumback

As recipient of the Blair Knapp Memorial Award for this year's outstanding senior woman, Betsy Roberts represents all of the attributes expected and then some. Throughout her three years at Denison, Betsy has upheld a high GPA along with being involved in several campus activities. When asked why she received this award, she was quiet at first. But then she concluded that her firm belief in the liberal arts system was probably the underlying reason. Betsy feels that a liberal arts education is fundamental in today's society. "More people should take advantage of this option. There are very few students who can righteously say that they know exactly what kind of a life and career they want before beginning to study. It is crucial that students have an opportunity to learn at least the basics of various disciplines. Many a potential goes unrecognized due to a lack of diversity in study."

Betsy herself has undergone several learning experiences. As a Granville resident she was well aware of Denison and when she was a senior in high school, some of her closest friends were Denison students. "I spent a lot of time at Denison with my friends and I couldn't wait to go to college. It looked like so much fun!" Since these friends graduated that year and because she wanted to live on-campus at school, Betsy enrolled in Ohio Wesleyan University. "Once I got there, college wasn't fun anymore. It's one thing to have a life at home with spare time spent enjoying college life. But once I became involved full-time, I couldn't separate the fun from the work. It's a vicious cycle to get caught up in and very hard to extract oneself from."

For this reason and others she took a year off from school. She worked and had her own apartment in Granville, while still remaining close to her large family. In addition, Betsy spent as much time traveling as she could. "The most valuable advice I could ever give someone would be to take time out from school." She feels that this allows time for organizing one's potential, goals, and talents so that one can get the most out of education. And this time away from school, along with a liberal arts education, seems to have been a successful formula for her.

Having located herself again in Granville, Betsy came to Denison as a sophomore and settled down to making the best of it. About her three years here she says, "I guess I've never been a typical Denison student. True, I took classes and was involved, but I always had my
own environment and friends to go home to at the end of the day and on weekends. Maybe that's why I feel I've gotten so much out of my education here."

Betsy is a Sociology/Anthropology major and plans on going to graduate school after she takes additional time off. Through her travels and her interest in people, she would like to educate women, especially those in underdeveloped countries. "There's so much that we do unconsciously every day that some people in the world have never considered. There is a need for women to learn hygiene, birth control, and general health practices that we take for granted." Betsy feels that this work would be rewarding as well as enlightening.

As a Fellow in the Sociology/Anthropology department Betsy came to respect Beverly Purrington as well as many other faculty members in that department and others. "Relations with faculty is another large advantage of a small liberal arts school and one that too few students make the best of." Through these various contacts she was introduced to feminism and its importance. "Suddenly, I was aware of so many little things which never bothered me before or that I had never noticed. Attitudes and statements directed toward women in general suddenly took on a negative association. And this new awareness made me think even more about my life in relation to the scheme of things." Betsy plans on having a lifetime career. "I wouldn't say that I don't want to get married and have children, but if I do, I'll continue working." She finds it difficult to understand how a woman could be satisfied by being a housewife. "And my mother finds it just as difficult to comprehend how I could want to work my whole life."

When asked about her attitudes toward "big business" and the American corporate world, Betsy responded negatively. "American business tends to hurt the people I'm most interested in helping. In underdeveloped nations, companies move in and try to overcome the culture, regardless of causing social upheaval." She doesn't think that business has the individual's best interest in mind. She believes that corporations are only interested in squeezing monetary profits out, while the host country can do nothing about it.

Since Betsy is graduating this May, she still has a long road ahead of her. It is a curious road, one which swerves when the driver least expects it. But with her strength, will, and determined energy, Betsy has a good chance of getting what she wants out of life.