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Visiting Professional Program

Already arrangements for next year are being made to bring to campus women in geology, applied linguistics, urban consultation, immunology, investments, politics, international women's issues, etc. Students will meet these women in classes and at dinners scheduled throughout the year.

AAAS Annual Meeting

Based on the positive evaluation of this year's program, women will be chosen by the various science departments to attend the Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. During this conference, American Women in Science holds its annual meeting. Scheduled for January in Washington, D.C., the meeting provides an exciting exposure to the professional world of the sciences.

Women in Science

Plans are already underway for a "Women in Science" weekend conference during spring semester. Designed to attract potential and declared women science majors, the conference will be open to other GLCA colleges and will be held off-campus.

Speakers and workshops will deal with both issues involved and opportunities presented to women in science.

mellon career exploration trips 1982

Following are brief excerpts from papers written by participants in the Mellon Career Exploration Trips to Washington, D.C., and New York City during Spring Break. Complete reports are available in The Mellon Office and The Women's Resource Center. Again next year, Spring Break trips will be planned for the purpose of exploring career opportunities for women.

On a Liberal Arts Background. The value of having a liberal arts education became very apparent. (And I thought it was just a lot of "hullabaloo" Denison tells its students.) One woman stated that her liberal arts education allowed her to be a "professional dilettante." She can research various issues, take the information and synthesize it. The social sciences do not teach students a specific organizational approach to issues but rather a research perspective that is general and applicable. A liberal arts education also teaches the value of learning. One becomes a self-educator, a process that is learned as well as a value attained for one's own self. Most women felt that having a liberal arts education was an asset when applying for a job. If further education is needed or desired, a person should work for a couple of years then go back to school to receive the additional education.  

-Karen Brown
On Skills. A number of specific skills were mentioned as important for women to gain if they want to receive lucrative and challenging positions. Namely, writing, research, and computer skills were stressed. The problem of women's fears of math, due to a lack of encouragement in early schooling, was discussed. The women who were utilizing math skills on the job often had been lucky in receiving encouragement, either from teachers or parents. Women who had not received such encouragement regretted their weakness in math and urged us to attempt to obtain math skills now, despite fears we might have. -Sally Morris

On Marriage and Family. Women talked of their roles in terms of married life and the balance that could be achieved with their career. We found that some of the women accepted such a balance because they did not see marriage and career as exclusive of one another. They felt that one needed both and should not give one precedence over the other. In this way, some of the women viewed marriage and a career as necessary social and economic outlets and as expressions of creativity. The option to have children while maintaining a career, however, seemed to be limited by economic factors. Only those women with enough income could afford private child care in their homes. Their firms seldom provided child care facilities for them, and they found public child care agencies limited. -Judy Mongan

On Feminism in the Workplace. Most of the women resisted the label of "feminist," although they agreed with many feminist perspectives concerning women in the labor force. Statements such as, "I'm not a bra burner, but I do believe in equal pay for equal work," were typical. I realized that at Denison it becomes easy to speak of feminism in theoretical terms, and it is easier to declare yourself a feminist in a university atmosphere where a support group exists. In the "real world," particularly in the work place and especially where the majority of workers are men, there are greater pressures to conform to more traditional lines of thinking, or at least not to vocalize any notions that may appear radical. Clearly, perspectives on feminism differ between the university and the work place. -Sally Morris

On Major Mistakes Women Make. One woman felt that women degrade their abilities and do not take themselves seriously, constantly trying to legitimate their positions in the firm. Another woman felt that women are not goal-oriented enough, have not received training in defining what they wanted and how to get it, and are not willing to be as aggressive as men. A marketing executive labeled her philosophy on this subject as the "cry baby syndrome," noting that women tend to complain more than men, blaming things that went wrong on the fact that they were women and not on the true problem. She said that if a woman did feel that discrimination was the problem, she should take positive steps to do something about it rather than just discuss it. Two executives felt that women are too task-oriented (which often leads to a narrow focus in their outlook) and not political enough. Finally, one woman began by saying that hard work and honesty were the most important characteristics for a successful person and sighted a lack of confidence as a deterrent to women. In this interview, we discovered how important it is to be seen as part of the team in order to move up the ladder. -Martha Dunbar
A Conclusion. The women all mentioned that if a woman is willing to work hard and is motivated to perform well, she can make it in the working world. A person who acquires respect through doing a good job will have the access to mobility, at least up to a certain point, which will hopefully continue to expand. The women stressed the importance of being aware and thus more effectively taking control of one's life. One highly motivated woman said, "You wait for someone to tap you on the shoulder and you'll be waiting a long time." That statement summed up a lot of things for me, as an individual and as a woman. It pulls together motivation, initiative, commitment, self-confidence, and effort—all of which are of vital importance to be successful at whatever a woman may choose to apply herself to. -Lisa Mead

social change class

by Kathy Wyder

This semester our Social Change class, taught by Dave Potter, decided to examine male/female relationships for our class project. We sent out a questionnaire asking students what they thought of the present situation and recommendations for interventions that could improve male/female relations. After assessing the questionnaires we set up a social model of the situation and concluded that Denison living conditions, the admissions process, GE requirements, and Freshman Orientation were some areas that could be changed to improve interaction between the sexes. We chose June Orientation as our target area and drew up a proposal that we thought would give freshmen a better chance to develop quality male and female relationships. The class is now in the final steps of drawing up an overall proposal that will be presented to Lex Smith and other members of administration. We hope that other groups will try to initiate change in this area too.


"Feminist Perspectives on Literature" October 2 - 3, 1981, The College of Wooster (about two hours from Granville).

Lou Brakeman is a member of the Planning Committee for a Conference on Women's Studies sponsored by the Association of American Colleges. The Conference will be held at Wingspread, the conference center of the Johnson Foundation, located near Racine, Wisconsin. This invitational conference will focus on the impact of women's studies on liberal education. Most of the participants will be college and university presidents and chief academic officers.

Suzanne Condray (Speech Communication) will be working this summer to develop a new course "Minorities and the Mass Media" which will look at access of women, Blacks, and Hispanics to the media and their portrayals in the media. Her work is being supported by a Faculty Course Development Grant.

Bahram Tavakolian is revising a paper on "Women's Contributions to a Pastoral Economy: Shekhanzai Women of Western Afghanistan" for publication in Women in Pastoral Production, ed. by Gudrun Dahl.

Joan Straumanis, Julie Mulroy, Ann Fitzgerald, and Nan Nowik will be faculty members at the GLCA National Summer Institute in Women's Studies in Ann Arbor.

Joan Straumanis received the first annual Crossed Keys Faculty Leadership Award. At the ceremony on April 28, she delivered a talk entitled "Bravery Training and Social Change."

Jose R. deArmas (Spanish) and Alexis Levitan's (English) translation of Carmen Conde's Mujer Sin Eden (Edenless Woman) will be published soon. Carmen Conde is an outstanding poet, novelist and writer of Spain. She was inducted into the Royal Academy of the Spanish Language - the first woman to attain this honor in Europe. This summer Professor deArmas will present a paper based on that work at the Intercontinental Conference of Women Writers, Mexico City, June 3rd. In October he will deliver a paper, "Solitude and Suffering in the Poetry of Carmen Conde" at the 31st Mountain Interstate Foreign Language Conference, Richmond, Ky.

Ann Fitzgerald will be presenting two papers at the National Women's Studies Association meetings, 31 May - 4 June at the University of Connecticut. The titles are: 1) "How Far Have We Come? -- A Report on Women's Studies in Small Colleges and Universities"; and 2) "Black Studies and Women's Studies: Curricular Linkages".

**a letter from nan nowik**

Dr. Nan Nowik, past editor of the Women's Studies Newsletter, is on sabbatical leave for one semester in Cambridge, Massachusetts where she is doing research on the history of women in America.

Greetings from Cambridge, Mass. I wanted to write something for the Women's Studies Newsletter that would be suggestive of what is happening here in the women's community. I considered women's music --there's a large audience for it, and the best known performers of it pass through Boston frequently; or women's art shows, restaurants, coffee houses, and community centers. I even considered writing about the Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women (where I'm doing most of my research this sabbatical semester), which contains an unusually fine collection of materials on women.

Instead, I've decided to limit myself to a brief look at the awareness or self-help or well-being or self-improvement options available to women in the Boston/Cambridge area. The list I've come up with works in three ways. First, it will set up a striking contrast with what's available at Denison --for which some of you will be sorry, some of you glad. Second, the list might act as dramatic foreshadowing of what trends and fads are slowly making their way to the Midwest (every woman I meet here, for example, seems to have not only a therapist but a chiropractor and a Futon mattress). Third, the list might be helpful to those of you interested in new programs for Denison. In other words, what can we take from here that will work at Denison with its particular student biases and needs?

First, for those women seeking individual therapy, the "Service" pages of newspapers like Equal Times: A Newspaper for Working Women, The Boston Phoenix, or The Real Paper offer hundreds of women therapists' names to choose from including brief ads indicating each one's individual approach. Many stress holistic, humanistic and feminist concerns and specialties: e.g., stress management, weight control or enhancement of self-esteem.

For those women wanting to join groups, the possibilities are many. There are groups for people in relationships, for those just coming out of them, for lesbians, for the children of lesbians, for heterosexual women married to or in love with gay men, for minority women, for women with weight problems, for those suffering from insomnia or depression or anxiety or stress, for those interested in controlling and expressing anger, for those undergoing transitions and career change, for those making decisions about sexual preference, and for career women wanting to deal with what one ad calls "women's achievement problems: underachievement, fear of failure, work conflicts, anxieties, depression."
For those women interested in a more physically oriented approach, there are currently offerings in yoga, sports nutrition, T'ai Chi, Naginata, various massage techniques, including holistic and Esalen body massage, and self defense (one has the unfortunate title "Dirty Tricks for Women: A Course in Self-Defense), and many kinds of exercise and dance, including Appalachian Clogging.

There are more conventional offerings in cooking, games, crafts, ecology, business, home and car repairs, photography and film, and literature. The Cambridge Center for Adult Education, for example, is offering spring courses on Jane Austen, Edith Warton and Katherine Mansfield, and the women (and men) writers who have tried "to transcend the limits of their own gender" by creating protagonists of the opposite sex. Men have long done this (cf. Madame Bovary, Anna Karenina, many of Henry James's novels), so I was eager to see what women writers would be treated in this study; but only two names were listed: Carson McCullers and Judith Guest, author of Ordinary People.

Prices vary, as they say. Individual therapy can cost anywhere from $10 (sliding scale) to $100 per session. The group prices vary depending upon the sponsor of the group. The Cambridge Women's Center offers many weekly groups for free including Wednesday night sessions which are based on predetermined topics such as stress, families, body image, public and private lives, and separation. Other groups function with one or two licensed therapists who charge $15 or $20 per session. Prices at the Cambridge Center for Adult Education range from $9 for a course on the vernal equinox to $53 for Quiltmaking I or II, to $78 for "Nouvelle Cuisine," to $140 for a bike tour of Nantucket.

The credentials and skills of the therapists and group leaders also vary greatly. Many admit to being interested amateurs with personal investments. Boston/Cambridge has a large women's population to draw from, and groups tend to be made up of non-students varied in age, careers, and class backgrounds. Few students and professors come to these groups.

These offerings might fail to flourish at Denison, where members of our community already have special academic and extra-curricular demands on their time. Denison also lacks the kind of diversity that seems to make these groups exciting and profitable. I wish we had more options at D. U. While some of the topics here sound downright silly ("Building a Better Hello," Limited to 16. Ten 2-hour meetings. $53), others seem worth transplanting to Ohio soil. They lure me with their implicit promise of personal growth and richer community life for Denison women.

"The Dinner Party" by Judy Chicago is on exhibit in Cleveland at 3130 Mayfield Road (Route 322) from May 10 to August 9 (See map on the glass at the Women's Resource Center).

FILMS AND VIDEOTAPES AVAILABLE

An excellent series of films on the prevention of "date rape" has been purchased by the Chapel Board. These films are short (about 15 minutes) and designed to be used with small co-ed groups. The series has been purchased and used by many other colleges. If you would like to arrange to have any of the films shown in your dorm, sorority, fraternity or other living unit (or if you would like to be trained as a group leader for the series) please contact me (Beverly Purrington), Carol Livingston (Student Life), or the Chapel Board.

Denison has a 30 minute videotape produced by Women Against Rape (W.A.R.). W.A.R. is the same group that led the January and February workshops on the prevention of sexual assault which many of you attended. If you did not get a chance to attend (or if you would like to see Caroline and Sarah on film) call Noni Nutter to arrange for a showing of the video. This can be shown for one (at the Learning Resource Center) or for groups.

COLLOQUIA

Next year there will be a series of Women's Studies Colloquia featuring Denison faculty and visiting professors for details be watching in the Fall.

ADVOCATE COUNSELORS

Eileen Krimsky provided training this spring for a group of faculty and supportive staff who have volunteered to serve as advocate counselors next year. These people will be available to talk with students who have been victims of sexual assault or harassment. They will be able to offer information on how to find legal, medical, or other services as well as being willing to talk to students about their experiences.

READING

Dr. Harriet Turner is coming to Denison (tentatively in October) to read a paper dealing with a book, "La Regenta" (The Regent).

COMPUTERIZED WRC

Ray Kloss, Liz Tynan, Sarah Short, and Colin Purrington have been working to develop a system for computerizing the library holdings of the Women's Resource Center. This means that soon there will be up to date lists of what is available in the center. We hope this will increase use of the library.