Winter 1977

Women's Studies Newsletter February 1977

Women's Studies

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.denison.edu/lookingback

Recommended Citation
http://digitalcommons.denison.edu/lookingback/155

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the Women's and Gender Studies at Denison Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Looking Back, Looking Forward by an authorized administrator of Denison Digital Commons.
February, 1977

TOPICS OF INTEREST

Speaking on "Duties to Oneself," Dr. Joan Straumanis appeared at Oberlin College on Tuesday, Feb. 1. Part of a Winter Term Project entitled "Philosophy and Feminism" the public lecture was jointly sponsored by the Philosophy Dept. and the Women's Studies Committee, and was financed by the GLCA Consultant's Service.

**********

The issue of battered women was the subject of a hearing held at the Columbus YWCA. The large crowd in attendance (including Juliana Lightle of Denison) heard testimony by a large number of victims, a police officer, a psychologist, an attorney, and an educational consultant. Several community organizations are collecting money to fund Phoenix House, a refuge for victims of abuse and their children.

**********

Elizabeth Janeway (Man's World, Woman's Place) was the keynote speaker at the Women's Studies Conference held on Jan. 20-23 at the Geneva Conference Center in Rochester, IN. Sponsored by the GLCA Faculty Development Program, the conference also included workshops on career development and goals, combining personal and professional life, and feminist criticism, as well as several informal group encounters and Women's Studies films. Laura Shear, Cindy Steele, Ann Fitzgerald, Pat Somers, Juliana Lightle, Denise Gaus, Cynthia Thompson, and Nancy Nowik attended from Denison.

**********
Over six hundred national delegates, including Ann Fitzgerald and Juliana Lightle of Denison, convened in San Francisco on Jan. 13-16 to attend the founding conference of the National Women's Studies Association. The conference was sponsored by San Jose State University and the Santa Clara Commission for the Status of Women. Founded for the purpose of legitimizing Women's Studies programs academically, the Association compiled several statistics concerning women and education during the 4-day conference. A more detailed account of the meeting can be obtained by contacting Ann Fitzgerald or Juliana Lightle.

**********

Ann Fitzgerald and Susan Bowling of Denison were the coordinators of an assertiveness training session at Denison, on Feb. 4 and 5. Sponsored by the Simulations Center, the session was designed to teach counsellors from GLCA how to lead assertiveness sessions. Ms. Joan Perlman, Director of Women's Studies, University of Missouri, St. Louis, served as consultant to the meeting, which was attended by Oberlin, Antioch, Ohio Wesleyan, De Pauw, Kenyon, Albion, Hope, and Earlham Universities.

**********

Encouraging women to participate in sports for health, enjoyment, and personal development, the Women's Sports Foundation last year became a public organization supported by public donations. Originally founded by Billie Jean King, the organization passed to the management of Eva Auchincloss, ex-editor of womenSports magazine. The main purposes of the organization include serving as a facility for obtaining information pertaining to women's sports, establishing a women's sports library, and the formation of a traveling Women's Hall of Fame. Information concerning sports scholarships and summer sports camps can be obtained by writing: The Women's Sports Foundation, 1660 S. Amphlett Blvd., Suite 266, San Mateo, CA 94402.
A meeting was held on Friday, Feb. 11, to help organize faculty, administrators, and staff in the formation of a day-care center. According to Amy Gordon, coordinator, "What we are trying to do is to cope with the problems caused by all the schools being out. We want something more than custodial care--something geared to the older children." The day-care center, if approved and located by the administration, will be staffed by an adult supervisor and students proficient in various areas, such as music, art, and psychology.

**********

The Denison Health and Safety Committee, headed by Dr. Richard Doyle, is continuing its investigation into the possibility of retaining a woman doctor on campus this semester. To meet students' gynecological needs, Dr. Nickerson and his colleague, Dr. Vollmer, would offer special times for examinations, in addition to current clinic hours.

**********

The second meeting of the Women's Action Group, coordinated by Laura Shear, was held on Wednesday, Feb. 16 in Curtis West Lounge. The speakers, Ms. Anne Fitzgerald and Dr. Joan Straumanis, led a group discussion concerning the definition of feminism and its meaning to the women on Denison's campus. The group is applying for a budget allowance from the DCGA, and is planning on opening a women's library and resource area in the Women's Center, Slayter 405, from 9-12 p.m. on Thursday nights. The Center will be open for reading and studying, and anyone who wishes to contribute books or other literature concerning feminism should contact Laura Shear, Slayter 1659. Meeting dates will appear in the Denison Weekly and Daily.

**********

Three new members were appointed to the Denison Health and Safety Committee on Feb. 8, 1977. They are Leslie Doyle, Kent Walsch, and Deneise Deter.
Denison Women's Studies Newsletter will be featuring a portrait of a woman on campus (administrator, faculty member, or student) in every month's issue. This month we have interviewed Susan Alexander, chairperson of the Denison Dance Dept.'

Seated in her large office in the newly remodelled Doane Dance Building, Susan Alexander, Dance Dept.'s chairperson, summed up her feelings about Dance and its place at Denison: "I feel very strongly that it's very important for any of the fine arts to exist in an academic institution. They provide a rounding-out process; however, I do feel also that those people who are concentrating in the areas of the arts should avoid shutting themselves off from everything else that is available to them. If the entire scope of your life is centered around your art, you're missing a great deal. For instance, I am taking a course in Asian Studies. I think that one should always try to broaden horizons. I'm trying to encourage people to remain open to everything."

Susan has left herself open to many possibilities within the scope of her art as well as without. She has participated in various aspects of both performance and choreography, before and since her arrival at Denison six years ago.

Born and raised in Pasadena, CA, Susan was the middle child of three, and began studying dance at the age of eight. "My main interests for some years were ballet and jazz. In high school, however, I had a marvelous teacher who was working on her Master's Degree, and she used me in her thesis. As she was avidly interested in modern dance, that became my interest also." Susan received degrees in English and Dance at the University of California at Santa Barbara, and her Master's Degree in Dance at Mills College in Oakland, CA.

Susan has studied technique with various teachers since becoming interested
in Modern Dance: "It's like studying different schools of art to learn different techniques." Among these teachers have been Margaret Jenkins in San Francisco, and Merce Cunningham in Berkeley and New York. In addition, she has studied the techniques of Martha Graham and Jose Limon with several teachers.

In addition to her work at Denison, Susan has been a soloist with "Dance Central"—a professional modern dance company based in Columbus, since the group's conception in 1973. Funded by the Columbus Foundation for the Arts, "Dance Central" will present a major concert in May. Susan currently has three of her own choreographed pieces in the company's repertoire. "I enjoy dancing professionally immensely, and I need to do it to stay on top of things in my teaching. In order to be a really good technique teacher, one must always be a really good dancer-- one must experiment and work constantly in both performance and choreography. I find teaching to be an incredibly creative activity, and a real benefit to my choreography." Susan uses several of her own pieces in the department's presentations every semester.

In her work at Denison, Susan experiments constantly with new ideas. She is very interested in the idea of combining speech and dance("I think it's the influence of the English degree") and taught a January term with Dr. Tony Stoneburner which utilized "poetry as an impetus for movement in choreography." She is also working with film-maker David Robinson on some pieces combining film and the movements of dance. Those pieces will be presented in the spring.

Susan will leave Denison for a year-long sabbatical in the San Francisco Bay Area next fall. "I want to try and do as much performing and choreographing as I can fit in during the year-- I hope to bring back a lot of new ideas to implement here."

Susan's position as chairperson will be assumed by colleague Anne Andersen, who will remain in the position until 1980.
DENISON INVOLVED IN DISCRIMINATION CASE

On Sept. 9, 1975, Denison University was named as the Respondant in a case involving sex discrimination. The complainant, faculty member Ilse Winter, charged the school with discrimination on the grounds that she had been passed over for a tenured position in favor of a male colleague.

Dr. Winter, Assistant Professor in the Modern Languages Department since 1967, was informed in April of 1970 that her position was non-tenurable because of unstable enrollment patterns in the Modern Languages. In December of 1974, she was told that she would be reconsidered for tenure. At the time there was considerable ambiguity concerning whether one or two positions in German were tenurable. On Jan. 21, 1975, her male colleague, John Kessler, received tenure.

Due to violent faculty protest over the tenure decisions in general, the administration rescinded the negative decisions and began reconsideration of the eight individuals denied tenure. Once again, Dr. Winter was informed that she was being considered for a tenured position. In April of 1975, the administration reiterated its claim that there was only one person who could receive tenure in German and that she had been rated second best.

Dr. Winter discovered that the administration had made no effort to collect systematic and current data on her (such as departmental recommendations and supporting letters from outside the university). On the basis of this finding, she requested that a grievance committee investigate the procedural irregularities pertaining to her case. In late May of 1975, the grievance committee presented a written report to the administration charging three procedural irregularities in the handling of her case; the committee recommended that she again be reconsidered for tenure, in regard to her merits only.
When she presented these findings President Joel Smith again offered reconsideration concerning tenure. He did, however, make one stipulation—she would be granted tenure only if she were judged superior to John Kessler. Dr. Winter rejected this proposal because she believed that the administration was practicing discrimination in requiring her to prove herself superior to her male colleague. Dr. Winter concluded that she had been discriminated against due to her sex—due to such things as the ambiguity concerning the tenurability of her position, the requiring of superiority, the irregularities in administrative record-keeping, and the fact that in the initial decisions (Jan. of 1975) no women were granted tenure.

She then filed a charge affadavit against Denison with both the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Ohio Civil Rights Commission, alleging an unlawful discriminatory practice. A representative form OCRC came to Denison in Nov. of 1976 for a preliminary investigation. On the basis of his findings, the Ohio Civil Rights Commission concluded that Dr. Winter was at least as qualified as Dr. Kessler. In addition, the administration's request that she be more qualified than her male colleague is a direct violation of Ch. 4112 of the Ohio Revised Code. On such evidence, the Commission determined that there is probable cause of sex discrimination.

The Commission has entered a determination of "Probable Cause" in regard to Dr. Winter's charge against Denison, and it currently engaged in conciliation by informal methods of conference and mediation. If these attempts fail, the case will be taken to court.

1 The administration ascribes to the guidelines of the American Association of University Professors—said guidelines have been adopted as internal policy. The guidelines provide that faculty members must be advised by their sixth year of employment whether or not they will be granted tenure.
COMING AND CURRENT EVENTS

Actress and writer Ruby Dee ("Raisin in the Sun") will speak on the Black Experience in Drama on Monday, Mar. 7 at 8:15 p.m. She will share the podium with fellow actor Ossie Davis. The two will speak in Slayter Hall as part of the Convocation program.

**********

During the week of April 18, Harriet Arnow of Ann Arbor, MI, will serve as an artist-in-residence at Denison. The author of several novels, the most notable of which is The Dollmaker, Ms. Arnow will give a major presentation and will appear as a guest speaker in several classes. Her visit is being sponsored by the Beck Fund of the English Dept.

**********

Mary K. Campbell of the Denison Art Dep't is currently presenting a show of works in paper, slate, and acrylics. Located in Burke Hall, the show began on Feb. 7, and will continue through Mar. 9.

**********

For events focusing on women in the arts, please check the Women's Studies schedule in the Denison Daily.

The Denison Women's Studies Newsletter is published once monthly.

Editors: Juliana Lightle
Kim Halliburton