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Commission for Women

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From the Chair...Wylene Vrba

Child care, salaries, enrollment, sexual harassment, mentoring, campus safety...these are a few of the topics being reviewed by the UTK Commission for Women Task Force on the Status of Women.

The Commission for Women is an advisory group to the Chancellor, charged with (1) assessing the status of women through advising and consultation with all university officials, (2) recommending policy and procedure changes relative to concerns of women, (3) facilitating coordination of academic and extracurricular programs, and (4) assisting in ensuring campus and community access to information on Commission and University activities related to women.

Faculty, staff, and students from the various colleges, schools and administrative units of the University make up the Commission, with members and a chair being appointed annually by the Chancellor. Faculty and staff members for the 1991-92 year are Monique Anderson, Jerry Askew, Lynn Blinn, Caroline Bowers, Lynn Champion, Kathleen de Marrais, Nina Elliott (past Chair), Pam Hindle, Mary C. Jones, Faye Julian, Lydia Jurand, Kathleen Lawler, Thura Mack, Maureen Nikola, Martha Lee Osborne, Lydia Jurand, Kathleen Lawler, Thura Mack, Maureen Nikola, Martha Lee Osborne, Lydia Jurand, Kathleen Lawler, Thura Mack, and Betty Vickers. Student members are Heidi Barcus, Melissa Carter, Margot Eyring, Tara Himler, Laurie Hughes, Anne McColgan, Amy Mounts, Anita Teague, Marie Wallace (CFW graduate assistant), and Susie Waters. Ex officio members are Lola Dodge, Camille Hazeur, Suzanne Kurth, and Dhyana Ziegler.

This paper, the Networker, is the Commission’s publication. It is written by UTK faculty, staff and students and is about UTK faculty, staff, and students. Everyone is invited to submit items for this paper: news of awards, presentations, recognitions; announcements of conferences, performances, distinguished visitors to campus, etc.

Office and small group meeting space for Commission activities is maintained in the Women’s Studies building, 2012 Lake Avenue, telephone 974-4739. Marie Wallace, the CFW graduate assistant, may be reached at 974-2498, if unavailable at the CFW office.

The Commission meets on the first Thursday of each month of the academic year at Noon in the second floor conference room of Andy Holt Tower. You are invited to join us in these meetings.

Swedish Visitors
By Marie Wallace

The University of Tennessee Women’s Studies Program recently welcomed visitors from Sweden. A delegation of women from various agricultural authorities and organizations in Sweden, studying the status of working women in rural areas, came to the United States to examine rural women. Two members of the delegation joined Dr. Martha Lee Osborne, Hu Mi, and Marie Wallace for coffee and informal discussion of their trip and comparison of the status of rural women in Sweden and United States.

While in Tennessee, the delegation had the opportunity to meet with women in Jellico and Marrise Creek. Dr. Gunilla Bjoren, an anthropologist and professor of Women’s Studies, and Ms. Birgitta Wiberg, Head of Development
Projects for Women and Youth in Rural areas, Swedish Board of Agriculture, were surprised at the remoteness experienced by the women they encountered in the U.S. They observed that the isolation experienced by American rural women was not only geographical but political in nature. Both women indicated that this was not what they had expected in the United States and were shocked at the conditions of many of these women and children. They noted that their views of American development have changed due to the conditions they observed. They noted that the income disparity between rural and urban women in the U.S. does not exist in Sweden. In addition, the gender structures of Swedish rural women are not as cut and dry as they were in the United States.

The women joined Dr. Martha Lee Osborne's "Women in Cross-Cultural Perspectives" course for a panel discussion. They noted, with pleasure, that the males in the class took an active role in discussing women's issues. The trip to the United States gave the delegation valuable insights. According to Dr. Bjeren, "comparison is often necessary because it is difficult, often, for us to see in our own surroundings." Perhaps a delegation of American women sent to Sweden may enable us to obtain a better view of our neighbors.

Professors Visit Germany
By Marie Wallace

During the early part of the summer, Drs. Martha Lee Osborne and Suzanne Kurth participated in the University of Tennessee Interdisciplinary Summer Institute in Germany headed by Dr. Jeff Mellor, associate professor of German. The group spent two weeks in the Harz Mountains honing their language skills and then spent a week in Bonn just before the capital was moved back to Berlin. Drs. Kurth and Osborne were fortunate enough to have interviewed Dr. Hanna Beate Schopp-Schilling who is the Director of the Women's Division of Youth and Women Ministry of the unified German Government. They discussed reunification and its impact on German women.

Reunification has affected a number of the policies directly related to women which had prevailed in East Germany. Concerns that Drs. Osborne and Kurth discussed with German women were the uncertainties of the work force, what was going to happen to the free or nearly free child-care system, and the access to safe abortion. These issues were of great concern to East German women, who are wondering if certain advantages that they enjoyed under the East German government are going to be diminished under uniform policies of reunification. The professors were fortunate to have several personal contacts that allowed them to discuss in great detail women's issues in reunified Germany. Dr. Osborne has shared her learning experiences on women's issues in Germany with her "Women in Cross-Cultural Perspectives" course this fall.

Duo Uses Video as an Agent of Change
By Marie Wallace

Dr. Dhyana Ziegler, associate professor of broadcasting, and Ms. Camille Hazeur, Director of Affirmative Action Programming received a grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education. The grant was used to design the program "A Change Model" to help college and university faculty and staff in overcoming any negative feelings, attitudes, and behavior that affect interaction with students different from themselves. Six video vignettes were designed by the two to stimulate discussion and are used with other strategies as change agents.

The program was implemented last fall, and forty-seven faculty and staff met in small groups once a week for a six - to eight - week period. Participants report a positive experience, citing in many instances that this was the first real opportunity to discuss race, gender, class, and ethnicity and how it affects teaching and learning.

Dr. Osborne Explores Ecuador
By Marie Wallace

Dr. Osborne traveled to Ecuador in late the summer with the University of Tennessee Faculty Summer Institute to study the effects of the newly awakening Women's Movement. Dr. Osborne's interests in Ecuadorean culture and its influence on women allowed her to explore the changes in a traditional patriarchal society. She noted that women were coming out from under strict male domination. Women are entering the work force more often, they no longer have to assume the husband's name when married, and no longer need permission from their husbands to travel abroad or to obtain a bank loan. There are two homes for battered women in the capital city and more in the works. Dr. Osborne said it was a very exciting time to be in Ecuador because of the emergence of movement and changes were starting to be felt.

Dr. Osborne had many contacts with women who are forerunners of the movement. She
participated in discussions with CECIM, an Ecuadorian committee that promotes solutions to problems encountered by Ecuadorian women. She attended meetings of a group called Attic Women, a literary group interested in feminist critiques of literature. Her interviews with Ecuadorian women included the following: novelist Alicia Yanez Cossio who is well known for her fictional treatment of women's themes, poet Fanny Carrion de Fierro who is a visiting professor in the US this year, and Clinical psychologist Fabiola Solis de King, co-author of investigative work Female Sexuality in Ecuador.

APPLAUSE

Dr. Olga Welch, associate professor of education, and Dr. Dhyana Ziegler, associate professor of broadcasting, were recipients of the Consortium of Doctors award. Drs. Welch and Ziegler were among over fifty African-American women who were honored at the Bouquet of Doctors banquet in Atlanta on July 27, 1991. The honorees were selected from Who's Who Among Black Americans who had earned doctorate degrees in education, the medical field, and law. The women are considered committed and accomplished leaders in their fields who exhibit a desire to help others succeed. The honorees were selected from thousands representing the states of Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. The theme of the banquet was to honor "Women of Color in the Struggle".

Ms. Eartha Kitt, star of stage, screen, radio, and television was the special honoree who received several awards and Dr. Olga Welch also received the Seminole Award in honor of the Seminole Indian.

Dr. Faye V. Harrison, associate professor of anthropology, has been appointed to the University of Tennessee Social Science Research Institute. As a fellow for the academic year 91-92, she is able to devote half of her time to research. Dr. Harrison, a political anthropologist, is currently working on a project of social politics and economic life in a Kingston, Jamaica slum.

The Women's Studies Program is pleased to announce the appointment of an undergraduate assistant, Rebecca Warui, who has joined its staff this semester as a volunteer. Rebecca, native of Kenya, is a senior majoring in Psychology; she is currently enrolled in its Women in Cross-Cultural Perspective course, to which she will be making a major contribution in connection with its study of African women. The committee is very grateful to Rebecca for her very able and sorely needed assistance. She is a pleasure to work with.

The Women's Studies Program was devastated early in the summer at the loss of its half-time secretary, Kristi Fejedelem, a graduate student in English, who went the way of all part-time people in the College of Liberal Arts and was terminated at the end of the fiscal year as a result of the disastrous financial condition of the University. The Women's Studies Committee is pleased, however, and enormously relieved to announce her return to the office as a work-study student. She will work in the Lake Avenue office and continue her graduate work in English.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Women's Studies Courses Spring 1992

215 Women in Literature: Fiction/Poetry
220 Women in Society
230 Marriage and the family: Roles/Relations
332 Women in American Literature
380 Concept of Women
400 Topics in Women's Studies: The Feminist Novel
425 Women's Health
466 Rhetoric of Women's Rights
483 Afro-American Women in American Society

Call For Research Presentations

Women Doing Research on Women

The Faculty Women's Forum invites female graduate students doing research on women to give an informal presentation with the opportunity for discussion on their research. The program and dinner will be held on April 13, 1992 at the Faculty Club. Contact Rosa Emory at 974-3135 by November 15, 1991.

New Editor

August 9, 1991 was Michelle Releford-Dalton's last day as the graduate assistant to the CFW. She graduated August 9, 1991 receiving a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership. Marie Wallace is the new graduate assistant to the CFW, and the new editor of the Networker. Marie is pursuing graduate studies in sociocultural anthropology with interests in social inequality, women in development, and the interplay of anthropology and social work. Anyone interested in contributing to the Networker, please contact her at 974-2498 or 974-4739.
Sexual Assault Support Group

Research indicates that one out of every three women will be sexually assaulted sometime in her life. Every six minutes a woman is raped. Sexual assault is a crime of violence, anger and control that can leave the victim feeling hurt, alone and frightened. If this happened to you, no matter how long ago, the Sexual Assault Crisis Center can help. The center is forming a support group for women who have been raped. This group will provide emotional support and information. It will meet on Mondays, beginning October 7th, from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. No fees are charged and everything discussed is confidential. To register, or for more information, call the Sexual Assault Crisis Center at 558-9040 during regular business hours.

African Speaker to Visit UTK

Dr. Jacqueline Ekambi, a participant in the Conference on the Status of Women's Studies in Africa, held in St. Louis, will visit the University of Tennessee, Knoxville campus November 18-21 as a guest of the Women's Studies Program. Dr. Ekambi's visit will be co-sponsored by the Afro-American Studies program, Romance Languages, Religious Studies, and the Women's Coordinating Council, which will sponsor a brown-bag luncheon featuring a presentation by her. The group participants expressed interest in visiting women's studies programs in the United States. Dr. Ekambi is from Cameroon and a former colleague of Dr. Odile Cazenave on the UTK faculty of Romance Languages. Time and dates of lunch and other lectures will follow.

For Your Information....

These services, and many more, are available to University employees:

Park for free on your next visit to UT Hospital. Take your ticket and UT i.d. card to the hospital's security office in the main lobby behind the information desk.

Tennessee State Parks, offer a 50% discount for UT employees, from Oct 1 - March 31.

Purchase your next supply of meat from UTK's Meat Laboratory, located on the AG campus on McLeod Hall. This office is open on Wednesdays from 1:00 - 5:20pm and sells beef, pork, and lamb. Price lists and information are available by calling 974-7261.

DEADLINE

December 1, 1991 is the deadline for articles for the Spring issue of Networker. Please send them to CFW office, 2012 Lake Avenue, attn: Marie Wallace.

Special thanks to CFW members Martha Lee Osborne, Caroline Bowers, and Tom Garritano of the Science Alliance, for their time and contributions to the Networker.

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, national origin, age, handicap, or veteran status in provision of educational opportunities or employment opportunities and benefits.

UTK does not discriminate on the basis of sex or handicap in the education programs and activities that it operates, pursuant to requirement of Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Public Law 92-318; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Public Law 93-112; respectively. This policy extends both to employment by and admission to the University.

Inquiries concerning Title IX and Section 504 should be directed to the office of the Director of Affirmative Action; 403-B Andy Holt Tower; The University of Tennessee, Knoxville; Knoxville, TN 37996-0144; (615)974-2498. Charges of violation of the above policy also should be directed to the Office of Affirmative Action.

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