The Networker

Spring 2001

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Commission for Women

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The Commission for Women
Netw orker

SPRING 2001

2000 Notable UT Woman

Dr. Nathalia Wright

On October 26, 2000, Dr. Nathalia Wright was presented the 2000 Notable UT Woman award during a ceremony at her home. Please join us in congratulating Dr. Wright. For more about this remarkable woman, read the full article inside...

cfw feature

Annual Salary Report Compiled

The 1999-2000 Study of Faculty Salaries has been published by the UT Office of Institutional Research and Assessment, providing an annual comparison of salaries earned by male and female faculty members. The report provides statistical information on salaries by academic rank, tenure status, experience at UT, degree attainment and academic unit.

A subcommittee of the Commission for Women is reviewing the report and will present its findings on the CFW web site later this semester. Additional comparative data and facts are available in the UT Fact Book at the Institutional Research and Assessment web site: http://web.utk.edu/oira

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full-time Instructional Faculty by Rank</th>
<th>Female Faculty</th>
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<tr>
<td>Male Faculty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professor</td>
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<td>Associate Professor</td>
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<td>Overall (97-98)</td>
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<td>Female Faculty</td>
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<td>Overall</td>
<td>296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall (97-98)</td>
<td>277</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 1999-2000 UT Salary Study

from the vice-chair

As I end my third year as Vice-Chair of the Commission for Women I look back with pride on the work the Commission has accomplished. This group has worked cooperatively on many issues important to women on this campus and I have enjoyed working with my colleagues from many academic disciplines and departments.

I am especially proud that the Commission helped to sponsor the teleconference on Women in Higher Education last year and look forward to the Mentoring Program which Jo Lynch is spearheading as a result of that teleconference. It has also been my pleasure to have worked with the UT Notable Woman committee and to have assisted in honoring several women who have made many contributions to the University and to society.

As the Commission continues its work under new leadership, I believe that continued improvements to the climate for women will be possible with participation and ideas from new as well as continuing members. I appreciate the assistance and comradeship from those I have come to know as friends while working with the Commission for Women.

Sandra C. Walker
Vice-Chair

from the chair

The Commission for Women is a collection of dedicated women and men who are charged with planning, implementation and evaluation of University programs, policies, and services designed to improve the status of women. The CFW serves as an Advisory Body to the Provost. Even after three years as chair of the CFW, I am struck with a sense of awe when I look at the mission of the CFW. I am very proud to be associated with such a fine collection of people who voluntarily give their time to this important mission. As you plan your activities for the new semester and a new academic year, please visit the CFW website, then contact the chair of the CFW and volunteer for some of many new programs.

I thank every member of the CFW who has worked so hard to accomplish our mission. I must, however, single out Sandra Walker, vice-chair of the CFW, for special recognition. My job as chair would have been impossible if it had not been for Sandy's leadership. Sandy has been willing to give time, energy and talents to many projects. Last year, when she led the CFW's participation in the Teleconference for Women in Higher Education, her skills as a project manager made that event a successful venture.

Sandy, thank you.

I look forward to the programs in this final semester as chair of CFW and to a continued association with the CFW.

Kimberly D. Gwinn
Chair

cfw's new web address

The CFW web site has moved to http://www.cfw.utk.edu

Be sure to bookmark the new url (web address). A special thank you to University Outreach and Continuing Education for hosting this site.
mark your calendar

February 22, Women's Mentoring Program. UC Crest Room, 4-6 p.m.

February 24, Ailey II, dance company formerly known as the Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble. Clarence Brown Theatre, 8 p.m.

February 28, Women's Studies Brown Bag. Dr. Faye V. Harrison, Professor of Anthropology, "Intersectionality: From theorizing to political organizing -- or vice versa," UC Room 237, Noon-1 p.m. All are welcome to attend!

March 6, Linda Chavez. UC Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

March 10, Moscow Festival Ballet, "Don Quixote." Clarence Brown Theatre, 8 p.m.


March 22, Not One Less (Yi ge dou bu neng shao). Chinese film about a thirteen-year-old girl who takes the place of the village teacher for one month. Clarence Brown Theatre, 7 and 9:30 p.m.


March 29, Women's Mentoring Program. UC Shiloh Room, 4-6 p.m.

April 10. UT Men's and Women's Chorales Concert. Location TBA, 8 p.m.

April 12-28, The Class Menagerie. Tennessee Williams' award-winning play about a family living in quiet desperation. Clarence Brown Theatre, 8:00 p.m.

April 19, Women's Mentoring Program. UC Shiloh Room, 4-6 p.m.


2000 Notable UT Woman

Dr. Nathalia Wright
2000 Notable UT Woman

Nathalia Wright, a native of Athens, Georgia, received the B.A. degree from Maryville College in 1933 and the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Yale University in 1938 and 1949, respectively. Professor Wright joined the University of Tennessee Department of English in 1949, where she became an internationally recognized scholar in American literature. Acclaimed after her first publications as "the most distinguished woman scholar in the field of letters" she continued her scholarly work up until recent times.

She was awarded an American Philosophical Society grant in 1952, a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1953-1954, and an American Association of University Women Fellowship in 1959-1960. In 1972, Wright was named a University Mace Bearer, the first woman to be selected, and in 1973 was the Phi Kappa Phi Faculty Lecturer. In 1975, she was designated an Alumni Distinguished Service Professor. She was on the advisory council of the American Literature Section of the Modern Language Association in 1971-1972 and chairman of the section in 1977. Wright was vice president of the South Atlantic Modern Language Association in 1977-1978 and 1987-1979 and a member of the Board of Directors of the American Council of Learned Societies from 1971 to 1979. She is a member of the Phi Kappa Phi and Phi Beta Kappa national honor societies. A Library Study was named in her honor in 1986. Professor Wright retired from the University of Tennessee in 1982.

Visit the CFW web site to enjoy pictures from the Dr. Wright's award ceremony and explore information on former Notable UT Woman award recipients. Available at: http://www.cfw.utk.edu/notable_women.html.

fall 2000 feature followup

Several join in "Chilly Classroom" discussion

The article in the Fall 2000 issue of Networker seeking input on "Chilly Classroom" research resulted in several people logging on to the CFW web site to join or read the web discussion. Participants shared their UT experiences on the subject, which suggests that men and women are treated differently in classroom settings, both by female teachers and by male teachers.

Those responding related firsthand accounts of being treated differently as students, in addition to faculty perceptions of female students' characteristics. A female student wrote that she sensed that her comments in class were often ignored by the professor, but when repeated by male students, were praised by the professor. Male professors participating in the web discussion expressed frustration at attempting to be gender neutral, in response to a climate of sexual harassment accusations.

Additionally, one male teacher wrote that women in his class seem reluctant to respond to questions during class. As a result, he found himself targeting questions to male students because he anticipated they would answer the question and contribute to the discussion. Still another male teacher observed that women students were far more likely to seek after-class assistance, acknowledging that he perhaps "expected" male students to resolve a problem on their own, while he was far more willing to help female students with questions.

The Commission is grateful to those who participated in this discussion and anticipates that more awareness of this issue will result.
A program to link female faculty and staff as mentors for female students has been established by the UT Commission for Women. The first of three events will take place in February 22 to initiate the Women's Mentoring Program, which came from a suggestion from graduating female students in 2000. The goals of the program are to promote the advancement of the status of all women at the university, to encourage personal and professional development and to build supportive relationships.

Scheduled events are:
- February 22, 4-6 p.m. UC Crest Room. An informal meeting to outline plans and register for mentor/mentee placements.
- March 29, 4-6 p.m., UC Shiloh Room. Panel discussion with Anne Mayhew and Norma Cook, who will discuss the history of feminism in the U.S. and on the UT campus.
- April 19, 4-6 p.m., UC Shiloh Room. Small group meetings; topics will include understanding basic rights of women in the classroom and workplace; writing effective letters of recommendation; and applying to graduate and professional schools.

For additional information about the program, visit the Commission's web site or contact: Jo Lynch (jolynch@utk.edu) or student coordinator English Rockholt (erockhol@utk.edu).

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation has launched a sexual offenders web site which allows for searches of a database by last name, county of residence or zip code. The web site is in response to a Tennessee law requiring the information to be public record. It provides information on individuals convicted after July 1, 1997.

The information contained in the registry has been provided to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation by the offender and is based upon the last monitoring and verification form received. The TBI does not guarantee the accuracy of this information and notes that offenders may have moved without notifying the TBI of that change.

TBI policy is that local law enforcement is best suited to make the determination as to who poses a threat in their community. For more information, visit the Registry web site: http://www.ticic.state.tn.us/SEX_offdv/search_short.asp and the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation's site: http://www.ticic.state.tn.us. Information may also be obtained by calling 1-888-837-4170 from 8:00 A.M. until 4:30 P.M. CST Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

The Angie Warren Perkins award recognizes women who have made outstanding contributions to university governance/administration. Nominees shall be at the level of department head, director or below, and shall be regular, full or part-time employees with a minimum of one year continuous service at UT. This year's award is open to exempt and non-exempt employees.

Guidelines and forms are available online (http://www.cfw.utk.edu/perkins.html). The nomination deadline is February 2001.

Dr. Virginia Seitz, Executive Director of the UT Community Partnership Center, has been nominated for the YWCA Women of Achievement Award.

Susan Metros, Professor of Art, has been named UT Assistant Vice President for Educational Technology.

Dr. Shirley Hastings has been named Associate Dean of the College of Human Ecology's Extension Family and Consumer Sciences and Outreach.

Pam Reed has been named Special Assistant to the Vice President for Research and Project Assistant, Office of the President. She will be involved with federal projects. Reed, an attorney, has a faculty appointment with the UT College of Medicine.

The Angie Warren Perkins award recognizes women who have, through extraordinary accomplishments, or contributions in either a traditional or nontraditional area, significantly improved the status of women within the University community. Awards are given in three categories: Faculty, Staff, and Student.

Guidelines and forms are available online for electronic submitting or faxing (http://www.cfw.utk.edu/achieve.html). The nomination deadline is February 2001.
Women's Studies Brown Bag

Dr. Faye V. Harrison, Professor of Anthropology, will speak February 28 at the UT Women's Studies Department's brown bag lecture series. Her topic will be "Intersectionality: From theorizing to political organizing -- or vice versa." The seminar will be in Room 237 in the University Center from noon - 1 p.m. All are welcome to attend!

Do you...

...have any photos, documents, or other information about the CFW? If so, please contact either Dr. Norma Cook (974-7067; ncook@utk.edu) or Ms. Margaret Crawford (974-4422; mecrawford@utk.edu), co-conveners of the CFW History Committee.

Connect with the CFW

Visit the CFW web site
http://www.cfw.utk.edu/

Join the Women Speak Listserv
Send an email to:
listserv@listserv.utk.edu
Type this message:
subscribe wmspeak your first name then your lastname

Women's Center

Please visit the CFW web site for an electronic listing of resources available through the Women's Center. Go to: http://www.cfw.utk.edu and click on:

- "Resources"
- "UT Resources"
- "Women's Center Resources."

If you have any questions, please contact the Women's Center, 974-1029 or visit 301 UC.

A Special Thanks...

...to Claudia Milstead and Julie Little - members of the CFW Communications Committee - and Kim Gwinn and Sandy Walker for their contributions and time dedicated to this issue of the Networker.

--Nancy Howell, Convener