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Special thanks to Britta Dwyer, Mary Hamler, Cynthia Iannarelli, Gail McGuire, Rebecca Michaels, the staff of Arts and Sciences Development, and the members of the WSP Steering Committee for planning this event and preparing the program.

University of Pittsburgh
EXHIBITS OF WOMEN’S STUDIES RESEARCH

Examples of research generated by Women’s Studies Faculty
(all exhibits in Frick Fine Arts Building unless noted)

Library Resources:
Adelaide Sukinnik
Ellen Detlefsen
(display in Hillman Library)

Women’s History:
Maurine Greenwald

Women in Science:
FAS Development

The History of Women at Pitt:
The Provost’s Advisory Committee on Women’s Concerns
Exhibit Director: Carolyn Sutcher Schumacher

Women’s Studies at Pitt
WSP Staff

November 20, 1992  3:00 pm

- PROGRAM -

Welcome and Honoring Our Founders
Susan B. Hansen, Director
Special Foremother - Roberta Salper
First Program Coordinator - Mary Briscoe

Introduction of Speaker
Maurine Greenwald, Associate Professor of History

Barbara Reskin - Professor of Sociology, Ohio State University

“Women and Work: Legacy of the Last 20 Years: Prospects for the Year 2000”

-Reception immediately following-
Frick Fine Arts Cloisters

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BEGINNINGS: The Women's Studies Program can be said to begin with the appearance, over two decades ago, of concerned women faculty before the University of Pittsburgh Faculty Senate to draw attention to inequalities in hiring and tenuring and women's needs for child care, maternity leave, and the need for an academic program focusing on women. Already in existence was an interdisciplinary course taught by three women faculty, "History and Social Role of Women" and a course on women's history which became the impetus for the development of further courses in various departments. Women representing the University Committee on Women's Rights, the National Organization of Women, and other unaffiliated women on campus then appeared before Senate Council to underline the need for a university commitment to women's concerns. With the threat of withdrawal of federal funds as a consequence of investigations by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, the Chancellor formed an Advisory Council on Women's Opportunities (ACWO) composed of women faculty, staff, and administrators, which was mandated to explore, among other concerns affecting women at the university, the creation of a Women's Studies Program. After extensive study, debate, and consultation with administrators and department representatives, the proposal for a Women's Studies Program was presented by this committee to the Faculty of Arts and Sciences where, after stringent debate, it was passed. The final step involved the hiring of an administrator and two faculty members for the Program.

GROWTH AND CHANGE: The grass-roots campaign for a Women's Studies Program at the University of Pittsburgh ended in 1972 with the hiring of three faculty in the departments of English, history, and psychology. Building a thriving program involved skillful persuasion and delicate diplomacy with the department chairs and deans. Within a few years, the collective efforts of dedicated faculty resulted in a strong undergraduate curriculum, a well-balanced collection of library resources, and an annual lecture series. The WSP newsletter keeps the university and the larger community abreast of faculty accomplishments and program activities. WSP has won much praise for its conferences on women's studies teaching, career development for graduate students; mental health; women and science, engineering, and computers; gender and economic restructuring; and women in politics. For many years, the program has promoted student research with its undergraduate and graduate student research contests. WSP offers a Research Associate program that attracts faculty from other universities and colleges who seek a collegial environment for pursuing their research. The Women's Studies collection of books, documents, and archives at Hillman Library is a major resource for Pitt and other educational institutions in the Tri-State area.

The Women's Studies Program has grown in students, faculty, and course offerings throughout the 1980's. We now regularly offer fifty cross-listed courses each semester, including our introductory course (Women and Society), and our special topics courses. Over the past seven years our student enrollment has grown over seventy percent, including many graduate students. Our number of Certificate students has doubled in that same period. Some students have developed a self-designed major in women's studies.

THE FUTURE: We have several goals for future development:

1. Developing a Center for Research on Gender to encourage the development of proposals for outside funding, to sponsor visiting faculty and research associates in Women's Studies, and to continue our excellence in program offerings for campus and community

2. Building closer linkages with other women's organizations and women's studies programs in the Pittsburgh community

3. Developing expanded graduate and undergraduate course offerings, leading eventually to undergraduate and masters' degree programs in Women's Studies

4. Establishing a prize for excellence in teaching in Women's Studies courses, in order to recognize the contributions of feminist pedagogy to undergraduate education

5. Encouraging better integration of research and teaching on gender issues throughout the curriculum