

# CCWH Newsletter

[www.theccwh.org](http://www.theccwh.org)

The Newsletter for the Coordinating Council for Women in History

## MESSAGE FROM CO-PRESIDENT: CAROLYN BROWN

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We are now several months beyond our January meeting in Atlanta and we as women face new challenges. It appears that the Supreme Court is poised to further chip away at a woman's right to chose to have an abortion. *Roe vs. Wade* is more vulnerable than ever. Just at the time when women have made so many gains in higher education and in certain careers, most notably medicine, we face a campaign to further circumscribe our choices. Assaults on women have increased and many of our women graduate students solicit our advice on how to balance career, with its benchmarks of tenure and promotion, with motherhood, marriage and partnership. The juggling act is especially severe for African American women who have the lowest rate of marriage of any group of women in the U.S.

The vulnerability of African American women to public attacks was most vividly expressed in the recent Don Imus controversy indicated. As a Rutgers University faculty I must comment on his the derogatory and racist comments against the Rutgers Scarlet Knights. For those of us who were ecstatic following their wonderful season, a season that began with many losses but ended in triumph, the Imus comments came as a stunning assault. It didn't matter if he apologized because words, once said, cannot be withdrawn. They were so hurtful and they ripped away a moment of triumph from these deserving women athletes. The irreversible impact of these comments reminds us of the Cuntel Cullen poem describing his first trip to Baltimore, when he was eight years old. He smiled a staring stranger, who then called him "Nigger." In his poem written years later, he recalls that of his eight-month stay in Baltimore, "That's all that I remember." Like that stranger in Baltimore, Don

Imus was able to deflect attention from the Rutgers women's remarkable accomplishments and make their time of triumph into a time of anger and hurt.

He was able to deflect attention from their remarkable accomplishments and to make their time of triumph into one of anger and hurt. It will now be impossible for these players to remember their victory without the association with his comments. This is the way in which he has permanently affected them.

Yet, the reaction to Imus' comments was astounding. It reverberated throughout the country sparking debates about freedom of speech, racism, and misogyny. These comments sparked a remarkable roar of indignation from within the ranks of the many corporate sponsors of his show as well as within the hallways of the CBS and NBC networks. In many respects this was one of the first examples of the political implications of the 'diverse workplace'. Both networks and sponsoring corporations mentioned that they heard from their employees, many of whom had worked for them for decades. MSNBC said they met with several women employees, a meeting that lasted two hours, and were confronted with an outpouring of hurt, anger and insistence that his comments had 'gone over the line'. In CBS its African American board member, a former president of the NAACP, called for his immediate dismissal. And Al Roper, of NBC, wrote searing comments on his 'blog' calling for Imus' resignation. This was a spontaneous, grassroots reaction to a person who had made many other comments attacking African American women. Several years ago, commenting on a pro-

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# CCWH NEWS

This spring, I began the process of setting up and email distribution list for the CCWH newsletter. An email newsletter option will save the organization money and save paper. A hard copy of the newsletter will still be available.

The process of setting up an email list included several steps and assistance from Julie Gallagher, the membership coordinator, and Rebecca Nedostup, website coordinator. After complying a list of email addresses, I sent out an email request of membership to join the email list. If you did not receive that email, the organization does not have a current, valid email for you. 121 members signed up to receive the newsletter by email. If you would like to receive the newsletter by email, send your name and email to me at [aessington@verizon.net](mailto:aessington@verizon.net).

If you have signed up for an email newsletter, please add [newsletter@theccwh.org](mailto:newsletter@theccwh.org) to your address book so you won't miss an issue.

Amy Essington

The Coordinating Council for Women in History now advertises job announcements (\$25.00 per ad) on its website. Please send ad copy to [aessington@verizon.net](mailto:aessington@verizon.net)

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL  
Check the date of your mailing label, if you have an expired date listed please renew as soon as possible. If you do not renew, this will be your last mailing.

Deadline for submissions for the Fall 2007 newsletter is October 1, 2007. Send information to Amy Essington at [aessington@verizon.net](mailto:aessington@verizon.net).

## MEMBER NEWS

**Daryl Hafter's** book *Women at Work in Preindustrial France*, long in the making, has just published by Penn State Press (May 2007). It compares the guildwomen in Rouen with female workers in Lyon's huge silk industry, showing how they acquired agency in business and technology, in an era when women were not adults in the law. The book is available from Penn

State Press for \$55, the conference price is \$44 plus \$6 for shipping and handling. Credit card orders 800-326-9180, or <http://www.psupress.org>.

**Katherine Parkin** (CCWH Treasurer) has won the American and Popular Culture Association's Emily Toth Award for her book *Food Is Love: Advertising and Gender*

*Roles in Modern America*. Inaugurated in 1986 the Toth Award is given each year to the best book in feminist popular culture.

**Amy Goodpaster Strebe's** book, *Flying for Her Country: The American and Soviet Women Military Pilots of World War II* will be published by Greenwood Publishing Group on August 30, 2007.

Submit your members news for the next issue. Do you have a new book, article, conference presentation, recent promotion, service, teaching award, or other professional news to share with the CCWH membership? Send it to Amy Essington at [aessington@verizon.net](mailto:aessington@verizon.net) for publication in the next newsletter.

## CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

If you graduated during the 2006-2007 academic year, please send your name, school, and dissertation title to Amy Essington at [aessington@verizon.net](mailto:aessington@verizon.net) for publication in the next newsletter.

## JAGTEJ 69, COPENHAGEN

Jagtvej 69 is the building in Copenhagen, Denmark, in which an international conference of Socialist women decided in 1910 to set aside March 8 as a day on which to demonstrate for women's rights. At the time, the demonstrations were mostly in support of women's suffrage. The idea of a "women's day" was originally proposed by Clara Zetkin, prominent in the German socialist women's movement. The specific day, March 8, was chosen because it had already been used by women in the needle and garment trades in New York City as a day on which to demonstrate in support of union issues,

such as higher wages and safer working conditions. (This predates the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire of 1911.)

The building at Jagtvej 69 was originally put up in 1897. Of little intrinsic architectural significance, it was paid for by union subscriptions. It was originally meant as a "People's House" for workers and union members, a place in which to meet and socialize, since unions and union members were being denied access to more middle class establishments in the city. It was one of five such People's Houses in the city of Copenha-

gen, only two of which still remain.

In 1982, a group of youth squatted in the empty building, now owned by the city of Copenhagen, and took it over to use as an independent center for cultural activities for youth. The building was gutted by a fire in 1996, but the youth group (*Ungdomshuset*) remained. In 2000, the city sold the building to an investment group which was in turn bought out by *Faderhuset*, a fundamentalist Christian group. Two years ago, *Faderhuset* went to court and got a ruling that they might legally evict the youth from the build-

ing, which they have since asked the police to do. The youth have steadfastly refused to leave, but as I write this they are meeting with Copenhagen politicians regarding their future. Meanwhile, the city of Copenhagen has issued a demolition permit to *Faderhuset*, who have said that once the building is empty, they will tear it down. They have not publicly said what they intend to use the space for.

Carol Gold  
Copenhagen  
February 20, 2007

## PROFESSIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFERENCE

Labouring Feminism and Feminist Working-Class History in Europe and Beyond  
International Conference  
28-31 August 2008 in Stockholm  
Call for papers

In September 2005 the first 'Labouring feminism conference' was held at the Munk Centre, University of Toronto. We have the great pleasure to invite everyone to participate in continuing this initiative to focus on labour and gender from a historical perspective in Stockholm in August 2008. The aim of the conference is to bring together a wide variety of feminist scholars working on various aspects of labour history, broadly defined, to share their research, to carry on a dialogue across generational, theoretical, national and disciplinary

boundaries and to continue the debate on how to reconceptualize working-class history in more inclusive ways.

The conference is structured around five overlapping and inter-related themes: Gendering working-class history, Labour feminism and female activism, Women and work – paid and unpaid, Bodies - trade and consumption – local, regional and international perspectives, Cultural and ideological representations of gender related to the above topics.

We prefer complete panels and sessions. We may take the liberty of rearranging proposed sessions in order to achieve an international mix. A panel should contain between two and four papers, a commentator and a chair. As a general rule no one

may appear more than once on the programme. Individual papers will be considered and we will try to arrange sessions and panels.

Please submit a copy of your proposal post marked by June 15, 2007 to the address listed below. You will be informed if your paper has been accepted at the latest by October 1. Your proposal should list a title and full contact information (address, phone and e-mail) for panel organizers and participants. It must also include a title, a half-page abstract for each paper or presentation; a half-page with the most relevant publications and affiliation for each participant (including chair and commentator)  
Send proposals to: [labouring.feminism@arbark.se](mailto:labouring.feminism@arbark.se)

### CALL FOR PAPERS

*Aspasia* is an international and peer-reviewed yearbook that seeks to bring out the best scholarship in the field of interdisciplinary women's and gender history focusing on, and especially produced in Central, Eastern, and South Eastern Europe. For more information see: <http://www.berghahnbooks.com/journals/asp/index.php>

*Aspasia* 3: The Gender History of Everyday Life

We are soliciting articles of 6,000 to 8,000 words for inclusion in *Aspasia* Volume 3 (to appear in 2009). The theme of the volume will be: The Gender History of Everyday Life / Alltagsgeschichte/Histoire de la vie quotidienne

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## THE CCWH AT THE AHA

### Friday, January 5

7:30 A.M.-1:00 P.M.

Graduate Student Drop-In Room for graduates on the job market.

9:30-11:30 A.M.

Session 1. Joint with the AHA Professional Division and the AHA Committee for Graduate Students. "Interviewing in the Job Market in the Twenty-first Century."

(See summary article below)

2:30-4:30 P.M.

Session 2. Joint with the AHA. "Conditions of Work for Women Historians in the Twenty-first Century: Keeping the Conversation Going." (See summary article on the next page)

5:30-7:30 P.M.

CCWH Reception

(See photos on page 6)

### Saturday, January 6

9:00-11:00 A.M.

Session 3, Joint with the AHA and the Western Association of Women Historians. "Women's History Organizations: Are They Still Relevant in the Twenty-first Century? Two Generations Respond."

(See summary article on page 7)

12:15-1:45 P.M.

CCWH Awards Luncheon (See photos on page 7)

2:30-4:30 P.M. Hilton, Grand Salon C. Session 4, joint with the AHA and the Committee on Lesbian and Gay History. Balancing Work and Family in the Academic Work Place.

(See summary article on page 6)

## AHA SESSION~ "INTERVIEWING IN THE JOB MARKET IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY" BY PAMELA LACH

At this year's AHA the CCWH co-sponsored the session, "Interviewing in the Job Market in the Twenty-First Century." In a ballroom crowded with countless graduate students—hopefuls like myself, all with the same frenzied and slightly harrowed looks in our eyes—we had the opportunity to talk one-on-one with senior professionals about what to expect at every stage of the interview process.

Round tables were set up around the room, each one representing a different institution, from private four-year colleges

and public research universities to two-year community colleges and even public history jobs, such as museums and state parks. Volunteer interviewers sat at each table while attendees milled about, bouncing from table to table to get a sense of what different types of institutions look for in job candidates.

I spent much of the session at one of the public four-year liberal arts college tables, with a professor from James Madison University. Our group spoke about a wide-range of subjects, including what to expect at a



CCWH Graduate Student Members preparing for interviews at the AHA

conference interview, how to market ourselves as interdisciplinary, what sort of questions we should bring into an interview, how to conduct ourselves at an on-campus, and how gender and race affect interviewing and hiring practices.

Much of what I heard confirmed and enhanced what I had learned already from my own department's Placement Committee meetings. But for the many graduate students not fortunate enough to take advantage of such professional devel-

opment programs, these conversations must have proven invaluable.

It was reassuring to attend this session, co-sponsored by the AHA Professional Division and the AHA Committee for Graduate Students, and speak with others on both sides of the hiring trenches. Perhaps most importantly, it put a human face on a process that, to many of us, seems opaque and dehumanizing.

# AHA SESSION~ “CONDITIONS OF WORK FOR WOMEN HISTORIANS IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY: KEEPING THE CONVERSATION GOING”

BY JEN SCANLON

In “Enabling History,” a November 2006 piece in *Perspectives*, AHA President Linda Kerber discussed the organization’s decision to add Disability History to its checklist of specialties on the membership form. Recognizing a field that has been embraced by a wide range and ever-growing number of historians, the AHA updated a specialty taxonomy that has remained largely unchanged since the 1970s. “We historians are lucky in our chosen work,” Kerber writes, and “maturity is likely to bring strength.” A group of panelists, in a session co-sponsored by the AHA and the CCWH, used Kerber’s piece as an opportunity to explore how the AHA can and must continue to modify its worldview as well as its concrete practices in order to ensure that, as Deena Gonzalez put it, “questions of social justice remain critical to the profession of history.”

“Keeping the Conversation Going,” chaired by Antoinette Burton, explored both the realities of continued injustices as well as the implications of those injustices in the historical profession. Deena Gonzalez’s paper explored the “numbingly low numbers” of women of color, Latinas in particular, in the historical profession, and she invited audience

members to think about the implications of this for rendering the history of the nation. In response, for starters, the AHA must engage in a greater degree of mentorship for women considering entering the profession as well as ensure that these same women, once they enter the profession, are given due credit for all of the elements of their work (which includes, among other things, that same mentoring mentioned above). Perhaps the AHA needs to engage in a study of these issues, nailing down the areas of greatest underrepresentation. Studies, however, must be followed by action.

Teresa Barnes, who teaches in South Africa at the University of the Western Cape, explored issues that, regardless of the profession’s self-identity as a global community, remain hidden. The “buffer zone” most academics experience in the United States, for example, between national or international politics and the university, or between the economics of local communities and the pension plans of the academy, evaporate in many settings outside the United States. On the African continent, Barnes argued, “academics are fully connected to the fate of the

nation.” The AHA, in its efforts at global citizenship, must examine the implications of this not only for academics and students in Africa and elsewhere, but also the implications for academics and professional organizations at home.

Catherine Kudlick, president of the Disability History Association, provided a more broad context for the AHA’s recent decision as well as some concrete examples of how the profession benefits when we “rethink institutions and structures that privilege certain ways of knowing and being.” What the profession needs, Kudlick argued, is the “academic equivalent of the curb cut,” so that we continue to make changes that allegedly benefit people with disabilities, only to discover how those changes help everyone. In very concrete ways, disability history can assist the profession in understanding how notions of “pulling one’s own weight,” which lead to success in the profession, may also hamper the profession’s ability to foster social justice in scholarship, career ladders, and classrooms.

Leisa Meyer, recently elected to the AHA’s Professional Division, took off on Linda Kerber’s suggestion that the AHA work

towards an equitable work environment. What might that look like, Meyer asked, when our world is increasingly stratified? Arguing that the AHA’s constituencies include not only academics but all people involved in making college and university campuses function, Meyer argued that we need new ways of thinking to actually “be” inclusive. Providing concrete suggestions for action, Meyer argued that faculty need to become aware of and the involved in staff issues and graduate student issues. What does it mean for the future of the profession, and women’s inclusion in it, when the majority of graduate student stipends do not include health insurance, and students are prohibited from enrolling without such insurance? If the profession does not want simply to move from the grad student profile of single, white, able-bodied male to single, white, able-bodied female, we have to address inequities both in and outside of our most immediate ranks.

The panelists’ presentations were followed by an enormously vigorous and thoughtful discussion with the audience. Clearly, we have to keep the conversation going.

Next AHA Annual Meeting:

January 3-6, 2008

Washington DC

## CCWH RECEPTION



### AHA SESSION~ “BALANCING WORK AND FAMILY IN THE ACADEMIC WORKPLACE” BY MAUREEN ELGERSMAN LEE

On January 6, 2007, the CCWH, with the AHA Research Division, the AHA Committee on Women Historians, and the Committee on Lesbian and Gay History, sponsored the session, “Balancing Work and Family in the Academic Workplace.” James Green (Brown University), Serena Zabin (Carleton College), Barbara Ransby (University of Illinois at Chicago), and Janet Polasky

(University of New Hampshire) comprised the panel. The session was well attended as audience members included independent scholars, graduate students, adjunct, tenure-track, and tenured professors. Although one of the session’s goals was to go beyond personal anecdotes in favor of addressing departmental and institutional cultures, it was

clear that the work-family juggling act was a highly-charged issue. After two highly-participatory hours, two principles were reinforced. First, faculty members need to know their institutions’ policies regarding on-campus child care, parental leave, elder care, and stopping the tenure clock. Second, faculty need to ask colleagues—both those with

and without children—to be allies in supporting institutional policy change and family/work balance. The “Balancing Work and Family” session ended with a call to action to use the Committee on Women Historians’ website to advance the conversation and with advice to check the website for the AHA-approved equity policy.

# AHA SESSION~ “WOMEN'S HISTORY ORGANIZATIONS: ARE THEY STILL RELEVANT IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY? TWO GENERATIONS RESPOND”

**BY AMY ESSINGTON**

With the Western Association of Women Historians (WAWH), the CCWH co-sponsored the AHA session, “Women's History Organizations: Are They Still Relevant in the Twenty-first Century? Two Generations Respond.”

The session included panelists from the CCWH, WAWH as well as the Association of Black Women Historians (ABWH) and the Southern Association of Women Historians (SAWH). Nupur Chaudhuri, Texas Southern University, (WAWH), chaired the session. Panelists included Kathleen C. Berkeley, University of North Carolina, Wilmington, (SAWH); Amy Essington, Cali-

fornia State University, Long Beach, (WAWH); Jill Massino, Indiana University, (CCWH); Karen Offen, Institute for Research on Women and Gender, (WAWH); Jacqueline Rouse, Georgia State University (ABWH); Robyn Spencer, Penn State University, (ABWH); and Gerhard L. Weinberg, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (CCWH).

The presenters spoke in alphabetical order of organizations. The first generation spoke first, followed by the generation currently coming of professional age.

The presentations of the first generation recounted their groundbreaking work in chang-

ing the history profession. Challenges included transparency in the interview process, finding mentors and creating organizations and awards to recognize the scholarship of women historians.

The three new generation presenters each spoke about the realities of the profession today. With minimum requirements for tenure track positions increasing each year, having to negotiate an online world, and mentors and role models available to them, the historians coming of age today have multiple opportunities, but continuing challenges. Robyn Spencer spoke about the additional burdens placed on women historians of color. Jill Massino discussed the

need for mentoring. I spoke about how our careers now begin with the three letter designation of A.B.D., rather than Ph.D.

I think it is important to continue this dialogue between the generations of members of the regional groups. As the professional historians, we need to remember the achievements of the first generation and how the profession was successfully changed by the actions of individuals. At the same time, we need to look to the future and anticipate the changing profession to offer support to the next generation of historians so they can as successful as the generations which have gone before.

## CCWH AWARDS LUNCHEON



Jen Scanlon,  
Executive  
Director



Julie Gallagher,  
Membership  
Coordinator



Barbara Ransby presenting  
“Until Death or Distance Do  
You Part’: Slavery and Marriage  
in the Nineteenth Century” for  
Tera Hunter,  
who was unable to attend.



Eileen Boris,  
Co-President



Linda Rupert  
2006 Prelinger  
Award Winner

## ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

(Continued from page 3)

This issue of *Aspasia* will be dedicated to the practice of everyday life, to themes linked to the lived, everyday aspects of gender identity. In particular, we are interested in submissions that address the following questions: How have broad institutional frameworks – religious, social, economical, political, and cultural – related to the ways in which average women and men have shaped their gender identities? And vice versa: how have (changes in) gender identities and relations influenced broader institutional frameworks and fostered the development of particular lifestyles and divisions between work and recreation/leisure/entertainment? More specifically, how have religious institutions' assumptions about gender norms shaped the religious practices and spirituality of lay women and men? How have sexual norms impacted how women and men perform and negotiate their sexual identity? How have specific marital traditions, such as patrilocality, influenced how women and men relate to each other in couples, and how gender is understood in small local communities? How have modern economic processes changed economic empowerment along gender lines? How have commercial practices challenged or secured specific understandings of gendered work and identities? What changes did state socialism bring to women's and men's gender identities and daily lives, and how did that change over time (through the impact of industrialization, urbanization, an economy of scarcity, etc.)?

These and other questions that engage with the lived, everyday aspects of femaleness and maleness, femininities and masculinities in Central, Eastern, and South Eastern Europe (CESEE), represent the broad focus of *Aspasia's* next issue. In all cases we are interested in how gender intersected with other categories of identity and social organization – class, ethnicity, nationality, location, age, and sexuality – in shaping the history of everyday life.

Contributions could highlight specific case studies, be more broadly comparative, or address issues pertaining to the methodologies and theoretical underpinnings for working on these aspects of historical research and analysis. They can deal with all historical periods. Overall, we are interested in innovative essays, both in approach and in focus, so long as they remain anchored in the regional context and gender analysis that are the foundation of our yearbook.

The final deadline for submission is 1 October 2007. Please send a copy as a Word attachment to: Maria Bucur: mbucur@indiana.edu

### CALL FOR PAPERS

The Central Connecticut State University's Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program welcomes proposals for papers, poster sessions, short films or panels from faculty, graduate students, senior undergraduate students supervised by professors, and independent scholars for the Annual June Baker Higgins Gender Studies Conference, to be held Friday, April 13, 2007. This year's theme is "Gender and War." We are es-

pecially interested in papers or panels (each panel will be an hour and half long) that address questions about women and war; femininities and masculinities in war; sexualities in war. Papers are welcome from all disciplines. Topics that do not fit within the theme of the conference but which are of general relevance to Women, Gender and/or Sexuality Studies are welcomed, but preference will be given to panels and papers that address this year's theme. Proposals for papers or panels should be submitted by mail to Karen Ritzenhoff or Katherine Hermes, Women's Studies Program, Central Connecticut State University, 1615 Stanley Street, New Britain, CT 06050 or by email to ritzenhoffk@ccsu.edu or hermesk@ccsu.edu no later than Feb. 20, 2007.

Please consider organizing a panel or poster on the issue surrounding the "rape" editorial for this conference. If enough proposals arrive we could devote the morning to this issue. (I am not suggesting a conference panel take the place of the panel people are currently proposing take place on campus, but rather that it could be in addition to any other panels.)

### CONFERENCE

Malaspina University-College in Nanaimo, British Columbia is proud to present Nobody's Child, Everybody's Children: An International Conference on New Reproductive & Genetic Technologies - May 24-26, 2007 - <http://www.mala.ca/nrgt/>

Speakers and delegates from all over the world will gather to critically consider legal, legislative, and medical issues related

to the development and implementation of new reproductive and genetic technologies. Supporting a confluence of perspectives and philosophies, this conference is attracting the attention of academics, researchers, scientists, physicians, counsellors, policy makers/analysts, activists, lawyers, philosophers, ethicists, students, individuals with lived experience and adult children conceived by new reproductive and genetic technologies. Among the prominent speakers who have agreed to present are Ms. Maureen McTeer and Drs. Louise Vandellac, Jeffrey Nisker and Eric Blyth.

Please visit our website <http://www.mala.ca/nrgt/> to view our conference programme and to register on-line at <https://www.gemsecure.com/events/nrgt/2007/delegate-e.php> Please forward this message to others you believe would have an interest in this important conference.

Should you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact

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## CCWH MENTORING WEBSITE

Although women have made great strides in the historical profession over the past three decades, they continue to grapple with a host of challenges, both professional and personal, as they progress through graduate school and onto positions in the academy and public sector. Studies have demonstrated that mentoring plays an important, if not crucial, role in the professional development, success, and advancement of women historians. However, not all women historians have the opportunity to develop such relationships with other female scholars. This is particularly true for women of color as a result of the underrepresentation of these populations in the historical profession

more generally. In response to this need, the CCWH is developing a mentoring database designed to provide support for women graduate students, junior faculty, and other women historians as they negotiate their academic, professional, and personal development. The goal of the site is to promote communication and networking relationships among women historians of various ranks and generations and from a diverse array of historical fields, specialties, and professional positions. Ideally, senior scholars will share their experiences with junior scholars and offer suggestions and strategies on a range of issues from professional development to negotiating familial and career

responsibilities. Rather than matching up junior and senior scholars/professionals, the mentoring data base will simply provide a listing of participating women historians--defined broadly to include those working in the academy, public history, and secondary education. Those interested in serving as a mentor should email or send the following information to CCWH graduate representative Jill Massino:

Jill Massino Program of Gender and Women's Studies, Bowdoin College, 7100 College Station, Brunswick, ME 04011 (jmassino@bowdoin.edu)

- Name
- Institutional/ Organizational affiliation
- Area of academic specialty (please be as specific as possible, e.g. 20<sup>th</sup> century Italian and Gender history) and for those working outside of the academy their professional title/area (e.g. archivist, exhibit curator; AP European history)
- email address

This information will appear on the mentoring website main page, which will be accessed by clicking on a link entitled "mentoring resources" from the homepage. Our goal is to have the database up and running by the end of the Summer 2007.

## MESSAGE FROM CO-PRESIDENT CONTINUED

*(Continued from page 1)*

posed photo session of Venus Williams for *Sports Illustrated* he noted that it would be more appropriate for her to be in *National Geographic*. He also noted that by hiring Gwen Ifill PBS had hired a 'cleaning woman' to give its news.

At Rutgers the comments brought a special hurt. Vivian Stringer is renowned for coaching skills and the innovative ways that she built her team. Several years ago she and the Rutgers team had been the subject of a documentary film *This is a Game Ladies*, about the inspiring story of Rutgers' 2000-2001 season. If you haven't seen it, please do. These young women, (which Gwen Ifill called 'the girls with the musical names' - Kia and Epiphanny and Matee and Essence. Katie

and Dee Dee and Rashidat and Myia and Brittany and Heather) were our students and those comments really hurt them. I understand that they cried when they met Imus and asked over and over "Why us? Why did you say this about us?" They were just kids: several of them recent graduates from New York City high schools. Two were friends who had apparently decided to apply together to Rutgers, wanting to play basketball and had triumphed - after the New York City high school system!! They had risen from a disappointing beginning season losing four of their first seven games and nonetheless concluding in the championship game.

And what does this incident tell us about women, academia and race. The linking of race, gender and a highly sexualized insult resembles the numerous

strategies some men use to 'put a woman in her place'. It reminds me of the construction workers who go out of their way to yell sexual insults at the most professionally dressed woman walking past their site. In this case, however, it angered so many women and men that it was virtually impossible for the networks to continue to support Imus.

In addition to being racist, could Imus' comments be a backlash against the Title IX gains of women's sports? At Rutgers University, perhaps the nation's most successful beneficiary of the Title IX program, we have built the largest women's sports program in the nation. Thanks to Title IX women athletes can also become strong symbols of success in our colleges and universities. In the Rutgers case our women's basketball team is

far superior to our men's and has gained a more reliable an audience. Could these comments, which also mentioned the players' 'roughness' and 'tattoos' (!!!), also express men's resentment of this shift in support? How significant is it that our men athletes were conspicuously silent throughout the crisis. To my knowledge they never publicly voiced support. But the Imus incident was a prism through which America looked at its discourse on race and sexuality. That the most enduring discussion following the incident was about 'rap music' *not* racism, is emblematic of the reluctance of this society to look at race and gender. Let us hope that in the coming academic year our students will not face these types of assaults.

## CCWH AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION UPDATES

The Berkshire Conference of Women Historians ("Little Berks") sponsors the triennial Berkshire Conference on the History of Women ("Big Berks"). The Big Berks will be held on June 12-15, 2008, at the Minneapolis campus of the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. Proposal submission has now closed; those who submitted will be informed in June whether their submission has been accepted. Conference registration information will be available at [www.berksconference.org](http://www.berksconference.org) by January of 2008. For further information check that web site or contact [berks@umn.edu](mailto:berks@umn.edu).

The Little Berks is an organization dedicated to promoting the interests of women in the historical profession, collegiality among women historians, and the study of history, especially women's history. The 2007 meeting was held on April 27-29 in Stockbridge, MA. The 2008 meeting will be held in the fall because of the Big Berks in the spring.

The Next Conference of the International Federation for Research in Women's History, IFRWH ([www.ifrwh.com](http://www.ifrwh.com)) Women, Gender and the Cultural Production of Knowledge will be held on 8-12 August 2007 at St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia, Bulgaria <http://www.ifrwh-bulgaria2007.org>

The International Federation for Research in Women's History-Federation Internationale Pour la Recherche en Histoire des Femmes was founded in April 1987. The first meeting of national committee representatives was held in 1989, in Bellagio, Italy, with the assistance of the Rockefeller Foundation. The aim of IFRWH/FIRHF is to encourage and coordinate research in all aspects of women's history at the international level, by promoting exchange of information and publication and by arranging and assisting in arranging large-scale international conferences as well as more restricted and specialized meetings.

The Southern Association for Women Historians (SAWH) was founded in 1970. The organization's purposes are (1) to advance the status of women in the historical profession in the South; (2) to provide communication among women historians regarding issues of professional concern; (3) to stimulate interest in the study of southern history and women's history; and (4) to publicize and promote issues of concern to the SAWH membership. SAWH's next triennial conference will be held in June 2009. For membership information, contact Megan Taylor Shockley at [mshockl@clemsun.edu](mailto:mshockl@clemsun.edu). <http://www.h-net.org/~sawh/>

As a former president of WHGC, Women Historians of Greater Cleveland, it is with sadness that I alert you to the fact that we made the decision to formally disband in May of 2006 after a 35 year run. The organizational papers were donated to Cleveland State University Archives and the remainder of our funds were given away. Beth DiNatale Johnson  
Ursuline College  
Pepper Pike, Ohio

The Western Association of Women Historians (WAWH) had 160 people attend their 38th Annual Conference which was held on a beautiful San Diego hilltop at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice at the University of San Diego. The organization presented its annual awards and prizes. Congratulations to Lauren Kientz, Founders' Dissertation Fellowship winner (\$1000); Carolyn Herbst Lewis, Judith Lee Ridge Prize winner (\$400); Christine Bard, Barbara "Penny" Kanner Prize winner (\$500); and Linda Nash, Frances Richardson Keller-Sierra Prize winner (\$800). Outgoing President Nupur Chaudhuri announced the endowment of the remaining two WAWH awards. All four awards are now endowed and two of the prizes amounts were increased.

The 2008 WAWH conference will be May 15-18, 2008, at the University of British Columbia, in Vancouver, Canada. Information about the conference and the organization can be found on the newly designed WAWH website, [www.wawh.org](http://www.wawh.org).

## CCWH GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

The Coordinating Council for Women in History and Berkshire Conference of Women Historians are pleased to announce the 17th annual competition for two Graduate Student Awards to assist in the completion of dissertation work.

**Thanks to a generous grant from the Berkshire Conference, the awards are now increased to \$1,000.00 each.**

"The Berkshire Conference is happy to be able to make an additional contribution," according to Susan Yohn.

"Hopefully we can increase the award again in the near future."

The awards are designed to support either a crucial stage of research or the final year of writing. The CCWH/Berkshire award is for a woman graduate student in a history department in a U.S. institution, and the CCWH/Ida B. Wells award is for a woman graduate student in a U.S. institution in any department, who is working on a historical topic, particularly one emphasizing race. Winners will be presented at the CCWH Awards Luncheon at the AHA Annual meeting. The Application deadline is **September 1, 2007**.

Application forms for both awards are available at the CCWH Website: <http://thecchw.org/awards.htm>.

Any questions should be directed to Professor Whitney Leeson, CCWH Awards Committee Chair: [wleeson@roanoke.edu](mailto:wleeson@roanoke.edu).

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