

Women's VU

The monthly newsletter of the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

August 2005, Volume 28, Issue 1

Sandra Day O'Connor: What Her Vote Really Meant for Women

by Stefanie Lindquist

President Reagan's 1981 appointment of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor to the U.S. Supreme Court marked a significant step forward for women in the legal profession by breaking the glass ceiling on the nation's most powerful bench. On July 1, Justice O'Connor announced that she would retire. Although speculation initially existed that Chief Justice Rehnquist would step down this summer, O'Connor's surprise announcement marks a far more significant event both politically and legally. As numerous commentators have noted, given her position as a "swing justice"—whereby she often rendered the deciding vote in cases in which the Court was otherwise divided between the four more liberal and four more conservative justices—her retirement creates a critical vacuum on the Court. Filling that position with a staunch conservative, they argue, could shift the Court decidedly to the right. Obviously, such a shift could have significant consequences for issues of importance to women, including matters involving civil liberties such as abortion and privacy rights.

In this essay, I evaluate O'Connor's record as a "swing justice" in all cases in which she participated while on the Court and in those that particularly implicated women's rights. The evidence

suggests that O'Connor generally voted in a conservative manner in most cases that reached the Court, although her voting behavior was somewhat unpredictable from an ideological standpoint. In cases raising issues of particular concern to women's issues, however, her vote often caused the Court to render decisions that provided for a more expansive interpretation of women's rights.

O'Connor's Voting Patterns: Systematic Evidence

In general, replacing O'Connor with a strong conservative will affect case outcomes on the Court only to the extent that O'Connor herself *was not* consistently conservative. One way to assess her overall legacy is to evaluate the extent to which O'Connor voted in agreement with the other justices with whom she served. In the tables on page 3, I present information concerning O'Connor's voting agreement with two conservative justices (Rehnquist and Thomas) and two more liberal justices (Souter and Stevens—who, curiously, were both appointed by Republican presidents). This information reflects whether O'Connor voted with these colleagues in majority or in dissent in closely divided cases (5-4 splits and 6-3 splits) and in cases raising civil rights and privacy issues.

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For more information, please see our website: www.vanderbilt.edu/WomensCenter

Gayle Parrott Honored with Mentoring Award

Gayle Parrott is often the first of many smiling faces that students see in the Women's Studies program. Lovingly acknowledged as the "moral and emotional compass for the program," Gayle was awarded the Women's Center's Mentoring Award last May and deservedly so. In her nominating letter to the Women's Center, Associate Director, Alison Piepmeier called Gayle "a consistently loving presence in the lives of students." Gayle is one of those people who always goes beyond the job description; in fact, Carolyn Dever, Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences

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Gayle Parrott, Office Manager of the Women's Studies Program, (left), shares a laugh with Dr. Linda Manning, Director of the Women's Center, during a luncheon in Gayle's honor last May.

We bid a fond farewell to Alison Piepmeier

A few of the past and present Vanderbilt Women's Studies majors and minors have been threatening to start an "Everything I Need to Know about Feminism I Learned from Alison Piepmeier" club. Although this might be a bit of an exaggeration, and Alison herself would probably call the assertion somewhat problematic, I think the concept still deserves unpacking. ("Unpacking" and "problematic," incidentally, are two of the most frequently heard terms in Alison's classroom.) I, for example, encountered my first Andrea Dworkin articles, discussed privilege and intersectionality for the first time, and had some of my first radicalizing moments under Alison's guidance. All of these experiences were, for me, life changing. In countless ways Alison showed me how to critically analyze the culture that surrounds me, and encouraged and challenged me to be firm in my feminist response to the world that I face.

Now we are losing Alison to the College of Charleston in South Carolina. While this is sad, if not tragic, news to all of us connected to Alison at Vanderbilt, we are incredibly excited that she will be making waves as the Director of Women's Studies in Charleston, a position she most definitely deserves. The following quotes provide a glimpse of the impact and influence that Alison has had on the lives of her students.

—Emily Baunach, '07

"Alison was my first example of what it means to really live feminism. I will always be grateful to her for pushing me to take my analysis, whether of course readings or of the experiences in my own life, further than I thought I could." —Jessica Bearden, '04

"Alison Piepmeier is the most inspiring professor that I have had at Vanderbilt. She has the ability to put into words so many of the frustrations and plights unspoken but surely shared by women in American culture." —Milie Joshi, '06

"Alison is an inspiration to every student who walks through her door. She engages with her classes at exactly the right level; she can generate a dynamic discussion from total silence in ten seconds flat; and she imparts to her students not only new knowledge but also a whole new way of examining the world around them. But what makes Alison so extraordinary is that her dedication to students extends way beyond what is required of her as a professor. To her students, Alison is not just the best teacher they have ever had — she is also their mentor, their therapist, their cheerleader (sometimes literally!), and their friend. She is a powerful role model of strength, passion, empathy, courage, and optimism." —Jessica Heaven, '04

"Alison Piepmeier is the reason I am so involved in Women's Studies. Not only did she encourage me to

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Address changes: Please contact our office manager, Robin Van Arman, at robin.l.van.arman@vanderbilt.edu

Deadline for newsletter: Submissions are due on the 1st of the month preceding publication.

We've Had a Baby!

Well, actually, *Vicky* had one...The Women's Center staff extends its warmest congratulations to our very own *Vicky Basra*, Project Safe Director, and her husband, *Alec Singh*, on the birth of their son, *Harjun*, in May. Everyone here will gladly tell you how adorable little Harjun is and how we've all "adopted" him as "the Women's Center baby!"

Vicky is back from maternity leave. Feel free to call her at 322-1333 if you have any questions about Project Safe programming or would like to volunteer. Please join us in welcoming Vicky back from leave and be sure to ask to see the baby pictures!



O'Connor's Legacy: What Her Vote Really Meant for Women

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O'Connor's Agreement With Two Conservative Justices (Percent)

Case Type	Agreement with Rehnquist			Agreement with Thomas		
	In Majority	In Dissent	Total	In Majority	In Dissent	Total
5-4 Split	51.09	25.00	76.09	46.04	16.83	62.87
6-3 Split	55.18	12.04	67.22	33.81	12.95	46.76
Civil Rights	71.39	8.25	79.64	69.14	4.94	74.08
Privacy	74.47	4.26	78.73	62.50	0.00	62.50

O'Connor's Agreement With Two Liberal Justices (Percent)

Case Type	Agreement with Souter			Agreement with Stevens		
	In Majority	In Dissent	Total	In Majority	In Dissent	Total
5-4 Split	25.11	8.07	33.18	19.78	7.83	27.61
6-3 Split	58.86	2.53	61.39	39.50	6.44	45.94
Civil Rights	73.33	2.22	75.55	68.12	2.31	70.43
Privacy	84.62	7.69	92.31	72.34	6.38	78.72

The statistics presented in these tables demonstrate that O'Connor's voting behavior was somewhat unpredictable, but that she generally leaned in a conservative direction, particularly in closely divided cases. Note that in cases involving 5-4 vote splits, she agreed with Rehnquist in about 75% of all such cases, and with Thomas in about 62% (considering agreement in both the majority and in dissent). In contrast, she agreed with Souter and Stevens in only 33% and 27% of such closely divided cases. Thus, in decisions rendered by a minimum winning coalition of five justices, O'Connor was far more likely to side with conservatives. Her votes in civil rights cases were more evenly divided ideologically, although she sided slightly more often with the conservatives in such cases. Yet in other scenarios, she was less conservative. When the Court split 6-3, she was more likely to join the more moderately liberal Justice Souter. In privacy cases, which include abortion rights, her voting behavior was, again, more akin to that of Souter and Stevens than Rehnquist and Thomas. These data suggest that we should not assume that, as the "swing justice" in very closely divided cases, O'Connor's votes were evenly divided between the two ideological wings of the Court. They also indicate, however, that in some cases of critical importance to

women and minorities, she did indeed side very often with the liberal justices. Thus, her replacement—the current nominee is Judge John Roberts of the D.C. Circuit, who has a reputation as a strong conservative with an engaging personality—does have the potential to affect the Court to the extent that he votes in a consistently conservative fashion, especially in privacy and civil rights matters. On the other hand, O'Connor's conservative leanings in close 5-4 decisions suggest that Roberts (assuming he is confirmed) will not have as large an impact in close cases as the conventional wisdom suggests.

O'Connor's Voting Behavior in Individual Cases: The Consequences for Women's Rights

As noted above, in individual issue areas such as privacy and civil rights replacing O'Connor with a conservative like Roberts could have an important effect. In the context of abortion rights, five votes remain even after O'Connor's retirement to preserve the constitutional right, with only Rehnquist, Thomas, and Scalia openly advocating the overruling of *Roe v. Wade*. Replacing O'Connor with a justice who votes to overturn *Roe*, therefore, will likely not result in the immediate evisceration of this constitutional privacy right. On the other hand, O'Connor had a substantial influence

over doctrinal development, shifting the standard from the *Roe* trimester framework to an analysis of whether state regulation imposes an "undue burden" on a woman's constitutional right to choose. While this standard preserved the core right, it also opened the door wide for states to experiment with various restrictions on abortion, including spousal and parental notification, waiting periods, and other efforts to constrain the abortion decision—

restrictions which are typically challenged in court. Whether certain restrictions meet the "undue burden" standard created by O'Connor may generate very close cases in which O'Connor's swing vote could have been instrumental in preserving more expansive abortion rights. Issues related to the actual exercise of the right to choose may also be affected by O'Connor's retirement. For example, O'Connor provided a crucial swing vote in a decision upholding a Colorado bubble law that required abortion protestors to keep a distance of eight feet from a clinic's patients and staff members. Thus, while the *right to choose* may not be in immediate danger, the *scope of that right* may well be affected by O'Connor's replacement. Indeed, the consequences of O'Connor's retirement could become clear in the 2006 Term, since the Court has already selected an abortion case involving the constitutionality of a New Hampshire statute that fails to include an exception to parental notification when a minor's health is at stake and insufficient time exists to provide that notification prior to the performance of the procedure.

O'Connor has also voted to create a majority in several cases involving barriers to women in the areas of education and employment or enforcement of fed-

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The Women's Center Library—The "Go To" Place

On the first floor of our building is the library, which includes about 3,900 books on women's issues, feminism, gender and allied topics. These volumes are listed on the Heard Library's online ACORN catalog. The titles in our collection can be easily identified: the owning library is listed as VU-CENTERS and the location is given as WMCTR. The library is open on weekdays from 8.30 am to 5 pm.

With the exception of a small reference collection (books listed as WMCTR-REF) all our books can be checked out by students, staff, faculty and Vanderbilt alumni/ae. Books circulate for four weeks and may be renewed online or by calling the library at 343-4849. We also have more than 100 videotapes and they circulate for four weeks.

We subscribe to about 25 journals and we index most of these by subject. A printout of this index is available in the library. The journals don't circulate but articles may be photocopied for 5c per page. Among the journals in our collection are: *Bust*; *Ms.*; *European Journal of Women's Studies*; *Media Report to Women*; *Feminism & Psychology*; and *Feminist Teacher*.

Arranged in drawers by subject are thousands of newspaper and magazine clippings, as well as newsletters, pamphlets and brochures on a wide variety of topics related to women. This material doesn't circulate but may be photocopied in the library.

Among our many new books are:

- Coontz, Stephanie. *Marriage, a History: From Obedience to Intimacy or How Love Conquered Marriage* (Viking, 2005)
- White, Evelyn C. *Alice Walker: A Life* (Norton, 2004)
- Hancock, A.-M. *The Politics of Disgust: The Public Identity of the Welfare Queen* (New York University Press, 2004)
- MacKinnon, Catharine A. *Women's Lives, Men's Laws* (Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2005)
- Pough, Gwendolyn D. *Check It While I Wreck It: Black Womanhood, Hip-Hop Culture, and the Public Sphere* (Northeastern University Press, 2004)

In the Library



Barbara Clarke
Women's Center
Librarian

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O'Connor's Legacy: What Her Vote Really Meant for Women

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eral laws prohibiting discrimination. In Title IX cases—(Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender within federally funded educational institutions)—O'Connor has been particularly influential in close cases. In a recent case arising in Alabama, for example, O'Connor wrote the majority opinion over the dissent of the four most conservative justices that Title IX's private right of action encompasses claims of retaliation against an individual because he complained about sex discrimination. In this particular case, the defendant, a girl's high school basketball coach, was fired after complaining that his team was not receiving funding equal to the boy's basketball team. O'Connor held that Title IX granted him the right to sue for retaliation. Similarly, in 1999, O'Connor sided with the four more liberal justices to decide another Title IX case in favor of the plaintiffs. In *Davis v. Monroe County School Board*, O'Connor authored the opinion holding that a private Title IX damages action may lie against a school board in cases of student-on-student harassment where the school administra-

tion is deliberately indifferent to sexual harassment and the harassment is so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it deprives the victims of access to the school's educational opportunities or benefits. O'Connor has supported broad interpretations of "sexual harassment" under Title VII as well, including the notion that certain behavior can create a hostile work environment even without a quid pro quo for sexual favors. Finally, O'Connor provided the swing vote to uphold the University of Michigan Law School's affirmative action program.

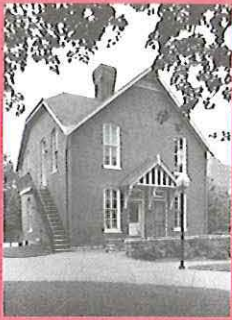
Although these decisions by O'Connor may be lauded by those interested in protecting and enhancing women's rights, her record is not uniformly supportive of those rights. Thus, she sided with conservative justices to strike down certain portions of the federal Violence Against Women Act on grounds that Congress lacked the authority under the Commerce Clause to regulate the conduct at issue. In another decision, she concluded that the Americans with Disabilities Act, which requires employers to accommo-

date disabilities that affect "major life activities," did not cover women with HIV on grounds that reproduction is not a major life activity. And in the abortion area, of course, O'Connor has upheld 24-hour waiting periods that particularly disadvantage indigent women.

In conclusion, Justice O'Connor's record in the area of women's rights includes some decisions that caused the Court to swing to a more expansive position regarding such rights. To the extent her replacement is less sensitive to women's issues and to the challenges women face, a retrenchment could occur in the areas in which O'Connor was particularly progressive. On the other hand, Justice O'Connor was appointed by a Republican president and her voting record reflects her distinctly conservative leanings. Thus in many ways and in many issue areas, replacing O'Connor with a staunchly conservative justice will have little impact on the Court's rulings in the short term.

Stefanie Lindquist is an associate professor of political science and law here at Vanderbilt.

August 2005 Calendar



Unless otherwise indicated, all groups and events are open to the public and are held at the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center at 316 West Side Row on Vanderbilt University's campus.

SPECIAL EVENT

Open House

Tuesday, August 23 11am-2pm

What: Stop by the Women's Center for some refreshments and get acquainted with the staff and all that we do here. Old friends are welcome, too!

Who: This event is free and open to everyone.

For more information, contact jennifer.hackett@vanderbilt.edu

REGULAR GROUPS/ MEETINGS

Sistahs Reading Sistahs

12:30pm-1:30pm (Meets the 1st Wednesday)

What: A book group for everyone interested in reading African-American women authors.

Who: This group is free and open to everyone!

For more info, please contact regina.snell@vanderbilt.edu

Book Group

Monday, August 8, 5:15pm-6:15pm (meets the second Monday)

What/Who: The book group is open to new members at all times and is for anyone who loves to read. The book group will read *The Spiral Staircase* by Karen Armstrong. For more information, contact Jane Du Bose at jdubose@bellsouth.net or Carmen Gherman at cggherman@yahoo.com.

Creative Life Planning Group

Tuesdays in August, 11:30am-1:00 pm (Meets every Tuesday)

What/Who: A group for all dedicated to living life intentionally and creatively. Free and open to everyone and is usually attended by women between 40 and 90 years of age. For more information, call 322-4843.

Creative Writing Group

Please Note: The group is not meeting in August, but will resume on September 13. (usually meets the 2nd Tuesday at 5:30pm-7pm)

What: The Creative Writing Group is open to new members! We look forward to hearing your piece. No writing experience necessary. You can bring a piece or create one at the group.

Who: This group is free and open to everyone. It is led by Anna Sir, who will do some writing instruction as well as facilitation of the group. For more information, contact annasir@bellsouth.net

Vandy Moms

Thursday, August 11, 11:30am-12:30pm

What/Who: Moms of any age! Women who juggle! Open to all mothers, partnered or single. This is a support network that provides advocacy for moms in the Vanderbilt community, as well as programming to inform, empower and enrich. For more info, contact misa.culley@vanderbilt.edu or call 343-4367.

Vanderbilt Feminists (Vandy Fems)

Wednesday, August 31, 7:00pm-8:00pm (meets every Wednesday.)

Who: Open to all students.

What: A student group concerned about women's issues on campus, and promoting equality between genders. Contact emily.c.baunach@vanderbilt.edu or katie.protos@vanderbilt.edu Or just come to a meeting!

Peer Educators of Project Safe

First meeting TBD.

What/Who: Peer Educators are students trained to facilitate workshops that promote discussion and encourage understanding of violence against women. For more information, contact katie.protos@vanderbilt.edu and kasie.r.luttrell@vanderbilt.edu

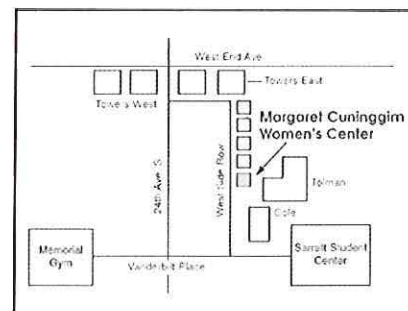
Men Promoting a Solution (MPAS)

First August meeting TBD.

What/Who: A group of men dedicated to creating awareness about violent crimes against women and eliminating those crimes through social change. New members are always welcome! For more information, contact steve.frooman@vanderbilt.edu

Support Group

What/Who: A support group for women who are survivors of domestic/dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. This group meets weekly at a confidential time and location; all information shared is kept confidential. For more information, please contact kacy.silverstein@vanderbilt.edu or 322-1333.



CALLING ALL FEMINISTS!

At a recent rally held in Nashville, TN, a speaker said "All people born after 1973 are feminists by birth." Anyone who has an interest in guaranteeing equal pay for equal work, decreasing discrimination based upon gender, race, class, sexuality, and size, protecting our right to bodily integrity and autonomy, or increasing awareness of sexual violence and other forms of oppression **IS** a feminist—or at least supports the current feminist movement.

The *Vanderbilt Feminists*, known as *Vandy Fems*, invite you to join us for an exciting new year of activities and feminist fun. We welcome people of every gender, of every level of education, and of every point on the feminist spectrum. We meet weekly on Wednesday evenings at 7pm at the Women's Center. Last year, the Vandy Fems helped bring about *Love Your Body Day* and *Take Back the Night* in October, *Race for the Cure* in November, *The Vagina Monologues* in February, and the *Mock Rape Trial* and the *Pay Equity Gala* in April. This year, the Fems are kicking off the year with our second annual retreat in early September, as well as beginning our preparations for Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October.

If you would like more information about the Vandy Fems, please email either of the co-presidents at emily.baunach@vanderbilt.edu or katie.protos@vanderbilt.edu.



Are you interested in learning more about eating disorders? Do you know someone who has suffered from negative body image? Join us for our 2nd Annual Educational Retreat about healthy body image and eating disorders to learn how you can help others and become a resource on body image.

IMAGE Fall Retreat

September 3rd
12pm to 5pm
Student Life Center
Ballroom A

Sponsored by IMAGE
For more info, please contact
katie.protos@vanderbilt.edu

INTERESTED IN GETTING MORE INVOLVED WITH PROJECT SAFE?

There are two student groups affiliated with Project Safe: the *Peer Educators of Project Safe* and *Men Promoting A Solution (MPAS)*. Both groups are student-run and work in collaboration with Project Safe to bring domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault awareness issues to the Vanderbilt community.

Peer Educators serve as advocates and resources to people impacted by violence against women through ongoing, targeted, diversified education and activism. We believe that violence against women is not only an individual issue, but also an indication of larger social ills that affect everyone who is a part of society. Peer Educators meet once a week at the Women's Center to plan upcoming events and programs, to continue our educational training, and to collaborate with other activist organizations associated with violence against women. Peer Educators help facilitate the Hand in Hand trainings, host the Clothesline Project, assist with V-Day events, and coordinate the Sexual Assault Awareness Month Speak Out. Anyone who has been Hand in Hand trained is encouraged to attend the Peer Educator trainings held once a semester and to become more active with Project Safe.

MPAS is a campus organization dedicated to creating awareness about violent crimes against women and eliminating those crimes through social change. They are a group of men who believe it is the responsibility of every member of society to create the changes necessary to eradicate sexual violence. These men meet weekly to discuss the impact they have on society as men and their ability to challenge the social norms perpetuating this rape culture. MPAS helps to facilitate the Hand in Hand trainings, sponsor *These Hands Don't Hurt*, coordinate *Walk a Mile in Her Shoes*, and cosponsor the V-Day events associated with the *Vagina Monologues*. Anyone who is interested in meeting with a group of men dedicated to creating social change, committed to preventing sexual violence, or would like to know more about violence against women from a men's perspective is encouraged to attend.

For more information about Peer Educators, please email either of the co-facilitators at katie.protos@vanderbilt.edu or kasie.r.luttrell@vanderbilt.edu. If you would like more information about MPAS, please contact steve.frooman@vanderbilt.edu.



Women's Studies' Gayle Parrott Honored with Mentoring Award

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for Graduate Studies and former Acting Director of Women's Studies fondly remembers how Gayle "gracefully oversaw" the transition of three directors in three years (!) [when Ronnie Steinberg retired, through Carolyn Dever's interim term, until Monica Casper was hired]. As a supervisor to several student workers, Gayle develops relationships that lead many to turn to her for advice and counsel in all areas of their lives--the mark of a wonderful mentor. Her impact on others lasts well beyond graduation; many students stay in close contact for years, sharing their achievements through graduate school and work lives.

Monica Casper, Director of Women's and Gender Studies and Associate Professor of Sociology, writes of Gayle:

"Not only do I trust her completely with the ordinary tasks of keeping the program running smoothly, but I am daily lifted up by her enthusiasm, support and commitment to our goals."

Jennifer Howard, Women's Studies major, 2002, recalls:

"The Women's Studies office is a refuge of warmth and laughter, for students and faculty alike, due in no small measure, to Gayle's unshakable optimism and wealth of life experience and wisdom."

We couldn't say it better...congratulations, Gayle!

NOMINATIONS FOR DIVERSITY INITIATIVE AWARDS DUE SEPT 30TH

The University's 18th Affirmative Action and Diversity Initiatives Awards Program currently taking nominations. The program provides an opportunity for the University to recognize and express appreciation to employees and students who support the University's commitment to equity and diversity. The Awards are given in two categories: efforts for supporting affirmative action and diversity efforts at Vanderbilt and/or support and promotion of opportunities for persons with disabilities at Vanderbilt. Chancellor Gee will present cash awards of \$500.00 to the top honorees. Additionally, another fifteen to twenty individuals will receive Certificates of Recognition. The Awards dinner is scheduled for Tuesday, October 18 at 3:00 p.m. in the Student Life Center.

To be nominated, faculty, staff, students, or University groups should have displayed exemplary efforts in support of Vanderbilt's commitment to affirmative action in hiring, project support or development, employee relations, or other appropriate facets of affirmative action and diversity. Individual nominees may be regular, full-time staff, faculty, or students or recognizable groups composed primarily of such individuals. ODC staff, academic deans, and general officers are ineligible. Individuals or groups may not nominate themselves.

Should you like to make a nomination, please contact peter.j.martino@vanderbilt.edu by September 30th.

A fond farewell to Alison Piepmeier

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become a major and then to pursue graduate studies, but she also invited me over to her house to make vagina cookies, entertained my anxieties about SEWSA (South Eastern Women's Studies Association conference attended by WS majors and minors) and always had her office door open for me. She is one of the most incredible women I have ever met and I know that her kindness will stay with me for life. She's a professor, a mentor, a friend, and a role model I will never forget. I want to be an Alison when I grow up."

—Mary Jane Philpy, '05

"I've never felt so much like I was taking a class from a friend as in Alison's class." —Steve Frooman, '06

"There are very few professors who are willing to go an extra mile for students, let alone a few hundred miles with four busloads of students heading to Washington, D.C. for the national March for Women's Lives. Alison is that type of incredible professor. Her passion for feminism and activism is contagious – creating a spirit in her classes and seminars that has fostered within me a commitment

to feminist activism. Alison is so much more than a professor – she is an advocate, an activist, a role model, and a friend." —Katie Protos, '06

"I do not think that there are enough words in the world to describe what Alison has meant to me and to so many other women at Vanderbilt. In many ways, Alison is the Goddess of Enlightenment, tending that fire with all of the passion, commitment, and fury that she brings to bear on our minds and hearts. Alison does not just teach feminism, she lives and breathes it and she makes all of us want to live it and breathe it more fully than we ever have before. We will surely miss her wit and wisdom, her laughter and her lectures, her big smile and even bigger heart but we can breathe easy knowing that there other young women out there who will get to experience what it really looks like to be a feminist." —Kacy Silverstein, '04

Goodbye and good luck, Alison! We will miss you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2005

CABLE's August Membership Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, August 10th. Mayor Bill Purcell will speak on "Nashville's Growth: Remarkable!" The Membership luncheon will be held at the Renaissance Hotel, 611 Commerce Street, Nashville, TN. For reservations, call 255-9111 or check out their website at www.nashvilleCABLE.org

MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 2005

Nashville NOW (National Organization for Women) will meet Monday, August 22 at the Nashville Peace and Justice Center at 7pm. For more information, please contact CynthiaNashNOW@aol.com or call the NOW line for more information or directions, (615) 269-7141.

VANDY MOMS FALL SCHEDULE OF SPEAKERS

August 11th: Lunch Meeting

September 8th: Susan Day from *Nashville Parent*

October 13th: TBD

November 10th: Ms. Cheap from *The Tennessean*

December 8th: Second Annual Holiday Party! For more info, contact misa.culley@vanderbilt.edu

SPIRITED WOMEN—FAITH AND FEMINISM

A series of five day-long retreats between July 30, 2005 and March 4, 2006, from 9am to 5pm. Penuel Ridge, located on 120 acres in Cheatham County, is an interfaith retreat center that offers quiet time, hospitality, organized retreats, community gatherings and walking trails. Penuel Ridge is located 18 miles west of Nashville near Ashland City at 1440 Sam's Creek Rd. The other four Saturday retreat dates and themes in the *Spirited Women* series are:

August 27th: Quaker Lucretia Mott (led by Penelope Wright); **October 15th:** Catholic activist Dorothy Day (led by Irene Boyd); **December 3rd:** poet Emily Dickinson (led by Caroline Goddard); **March 4, 2006:** St. Teresa of Avila (led by Diane Blum). For more information on these retreats, please contact Cherie Booker, retreat leader, at (615)383-9707 or call (615)792-3734 to register.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2005

Women Veterans Family Gathering

For all women who have served in the military and their families and friends; 10:00am to 4 pm, Cumberland Mountain State Park, Crossville, TN. For more information, please contact MaryAnn Woodward-Smith, Women Veterans Program Manager at 1-800-228-4973, ext. 5130

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Women's VU mailing list

Women's VU is sent free, on request, to all Vanderbilt students and to faculty and staff at a campus address. Subscriptions are available to off-campus readers for a suggested donation of \$10 per year. Please include your check, payable to Vanderbilt University, with your subscription.

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Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center

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