

100th anniversary

Nashville YWCA celebrates centennial of service to women

by Lynn Green

When young women from farms began streaming into Nashville in search of jobs early in this century, many of them chose to live in the YWCA's new downtown residence hall.

The six-story structure on Seventh Avenue was the first building in the South constructed for use as a YWCA,

and for almost 40 years after it opened in 1911, there was a waiting list of women who wanted a room there. The building featured the city's first swimming pool for women, a gymnasium, auditorium, and cafeteria in addition to the dorm-style rooms for working girls.

Construction of the building was the result of a determined effort by members of the YWCA to provide assistance to the young women, many of them naive and under-nourished, who came to work in the city's mills, factories, publishing houses and laundries.

Today, 100 years after its founding in 1898, the Nashville YWCA continues to provide services that empower women and girls.

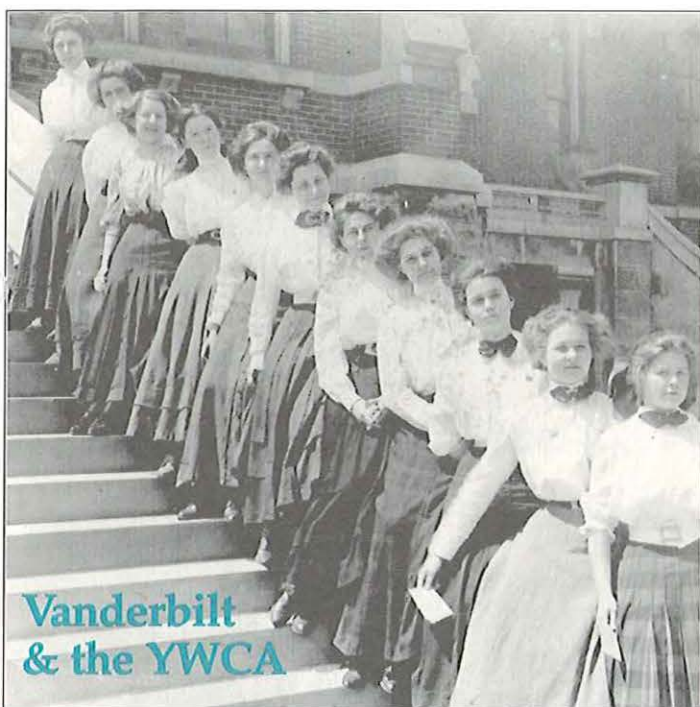
"The YWCA is an organization that develops skills and attitudes that help women and girls make good choices for their lives," says Elizabeth Crook, interim executive director of the Nashville YWCA. "I believe we have done that for the past 100 years, and the strength of this organization is that it has always been willing to say, 'How do we best do that now?'"

When the demand for residence rooms at the YWCA declined after World War II, the association began a long and sometimes painful effort to re-evaluate its mission and decentralize its services. With a new suburban headquarters and a range of programs now in place for teens, victims of domestic violence and many others, the YWCA is ready to celebrate the accomplishments of its first 100 years and launch an ambitious fund-raising program for the future.

Centennial events

The celebration will include events throughout the year, among them a joint performance by the Fisk Jubilee Singers and the YWCA's Sisterhood of African-American teenagers in February; a speech by Maya Angelou in June; and a juried exhibit of art by Tennessee women in October. Dr. Vivian Pinn, director of the Office of Research on Women's Health at the National Institutes of Health, is tentatively scheduled to speak at Vanderbilt Sept. 17. Harriet Foley and Sue Spickard, who are co-chairing the cen-

continued on page 2



Women at Vanderbilt formed a campus chapter of the YWCA in 1915, meeting in a room on West Side Row (where the Women's Center is now located). Members of the chapter are pictured above in an undated photo taken on the steps of Kirkland Hall. Vanderbilt has had several other links to the Nashville YWCA during its 100-year history. One of the founders and first president of the YWCA was Mrs. Herbert Tolman, wife of the noted scholar and A&S dean for whom Tolman Hall is named. In 1911, the university provided funds for the YWCA's downtown building, lending \$40,000 for a mortgage on the property. The connections between Vanderbilt and the YWCA continue today, as university women give their time and support to the association's programs (see article, page 2.)



Maya Angelou
YWCA speaker

Aiding victims of domestic violence at YWCA shelter

Stephanie Ludwig, a student at Vanderbilt Divinity School, has an insider's view of the contributions made to the local community by YWCA programs.

Ludwig has combined her interests in religion and domestic violence by working on weekends as a counselor at the YWCA domestic violence shelter. She answers the shelter's 24-hour crisis line, provides counseling and case management for shelter clients, and does community education programs on domestic violence.

After working up to 16 hours each weekend at the shelter, Ludwig returns during the week to her studies at the Divinity School, where she is a second-year student in the master's degree program. Ludwig is working toward a certificate in the new Carpenter Program, an interdisciplinary program which combines the study of religion, gender and sexuality.

Ludwig says the YWCA shelter addresses a tremendous need in the area for victims of domestic violence; its aging 16-bed facility is often filled to capacity and beyond. Having worked as a volunteer



Stephanie Ludwig
Divinity student

previously at domestic violence shelters in San Diego and New Haven, she sees the YWCA efforts here as "a very progressive program."

Her interest in the issue of domestic violence was sparked by conversations with her own mother, who came from an abusive home and shared her experiences with her daughter. Ludwig says she came to develop a particular concern for the religious and faith issues related to domestic violence. Many of the victims she counsels say their batterers cite the church and the Bible in explaining their violence.

"They claim, 'The church says it's OK, or the Bible says it's OK' " to dominate their wives by beating them, Ludwig says. Other victims of domestic violence say they have lost faith because their church or pastor did not support them when they reported being battered. Ludwig says she is interested in exploring these problems and relating them to her current studies, which include feminist interpretations of scripture.

In addition to paid staff members like Ludwig, the shelter relies on volunteers for much of its work, from answering the crisis line and working with clients to more mundane clerical and maintenance tasks. Vanderbilt graduate and undergraduate students have frequently been among the shelter's volunteers and are always welcomed. An in-depth training program is offered to orient new volunteers.



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YWCA celebrates centennial *continued from page 1*

ennial celebration, are also hopeful that Hillary Clinton will accept an invitation to attend the YWCA's 100th annual meeting on April 23.


The kickoff for the centennial will be Thursday, Jan. 8, at the YWCA headquarters, 1608 Woodmont Blvd., from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. In addition to displays of historical items and a new centennial quilt, the kickoff will feature the announcement of plans for the YWCA's capital campaign.

The goal of the \$11 million campaign is to raise funds for construction of a new youth services center and a new domestic violence shelter to replace the aging and overcrowded facilities now in use.

The YWCA currently operates Try Angle House, its program for abused and neglected teenage girls, in a former residence near the Vanderbilt

campus. The house can accommodate only 11 girls at a time, forcing the YWCA to turn away 81 of the 116 girls who were referred there last year. If the capital campaign meets its goal, the new youth center will have more residence space, counseling rooms and a multi-purpose activity room.

Other YWCA programs for women include:

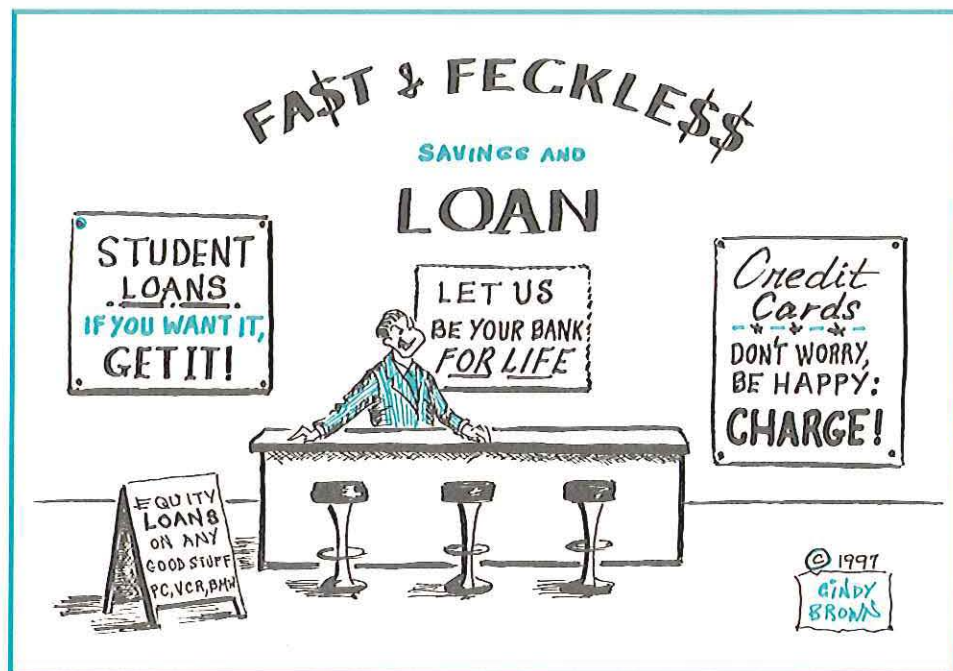
- Child care training and start-up assistance for women who want to provide child care in their homes.
- Training and job referral services for women trying to support their families.
- NewStart training for inmates at the Tennessee Prison for Women.
- Personal enrichment classes on a variety of topics from calligraphy to conversational Spanish. 

Support offered for dissertation writers

Women who are writing doctoral dissertations are invited to join a group that meets each month at the Women's Center to share problem-solving advice, trouble-shooting and moral support.

The group is facilitated by Darlene Panvini, assistant director of the Center for Teaching, who was a member of the group herself when working toward her doctorate in biology.

New members are admitted only at the beginning of each semester and must submit an abstract of their dissertation. For details, see the calendar listing on page 5.



Students and mentors make 'career connections'

by Nina Kuttly (A&S '00)

More than two dozen senior women at Vanderbilt are participating in this year's Career Connections program, in which students are paired with professional mentors in their prospective career fields.

The Career Center co-sponsors the mentoring program with the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center and the Nashville Women's Breakfast Club, a group of about 40 women who meet once a week to eat breakfast, network and talk business.

Career Connections began four years ago, and this year for the first time, students and mentors were given the opportunity to meet in an informal setting before the start of the mentoring process. At a reception in November, many of the paired students and businesswomen made their first contact and launched into conversation. The reception was not a required part of the program, but an enjoyable start for the many who attended.

Deborah Varallo, a member of the Breakfast Club who works in marketing, has participated in Career Connections for three years, and has two

students matched with her in the program this year. "After a casual encounter, we're ready to show them what our jobs are all about," Varallo says. "Sometimes, it's very difficult to get my schedule to match the students', but once we get under way, everything goes very smoothly."

"It's a very important part of finding a job and a niche these students feel comfortable in."

Varallo tries to plan her time with each student carefully, to maximize the activities they observe.

"If I had the student with me all day, they would get to sit in the office watching me work on my computer for about half of the work day, and that is just too boring. Instead, I'll take my student on a couple of activities for a few days, about three hours a day," she says.

Students paired with Varallo will observe and participate in presentations, seminars and marketing projects.

"I feel really good about the program and what it does for Vanderbilt women," Varallo says. "It's nice to

see college students taking an active interest in the fields they want to pursue."

Anne Edmunds of the Career Center hopes more Vanderbilt students will take advantage of the program in the years ahead. "It's great for the students to see what actually is

entailed in their fields in an informal, friendly, intimate setting," she says.

"The Breakfast Club provides a networking support group comprised of women from so many different

fields: doctors, lawyers, women in marketing and architecture. All of these women are volunteers, so they take special care in making sure the Vanderbilt women are comfortable in the program and that they see everything that goes on in their jobs," Edmunds says.

"It's a very important part of finding a job and a niche these students feel comfortable in," notes Edmunds. "Starting out early is always the best solution."

Undergraduate women can prepare for the program by registering with the Career Center. An informational session for interested seniors is held in the fall.

Anne Brothers' watercolors capture scenic memories



Anne Carter Brothers with a selection of her watercolors.

Although she did not begin to paint until 1991, artist Anne Carter Brothers has quickly defined a style and method that give rich meaning to the scenes she portrays.

"Memories in Watercolor," an exhibit of her work, will be on display at the Women's Center from Jan. 12 to Feb. 28. The watercolors in the exhibit attempt to "capture the moment" with detailed portrayals of scenes from her travels and from her home in Tennessee.

Brothers uses her camera to record settings that appeal to her, including "the vibrant streets of Provence, the windswept rocks of Maine, and the heathered hills of Scotland." When she returns to Nashville, she completes the work in her studio using her photographs and sketches as a guide.

Brothers says she "spent many years as a wife, mother and volunteer before beginning to paint in 1991." She studied with several noted artists and began showing her work in 1995.

Commenting on her new vocation, Brothers says, "What a blessing to discover a gift that opens one's eyes to the world, just as they are starting to adjust to bifocals!" She will be honored at a reception at the Women's Center on Thursday, January 15 from 5 to 6 p.m.

The exhibit is open during the center's regular hours, Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Girls sports conference

Celebrating achievements of women athletes

Several events, including an educational conference and basketball clinic, are being planned locally to commemorate National Girls and Women in Sports Day.

The conference, on Thursday, Feb. 5 at Baptist Hospital, will feature a panel discussion on preparing female athletes for success. Two workshops will also be included. Sharon Shields, professor of the practice of health promotion at Vanderbilt, will lead a session on the benefits of girls' participation in sports. Reba Sloan, a dietitian, will direct a workshop on nutrition for girl athletes.

The conference will be preceded by a "Breakfast of Champions" at the Vanderbilt Plaza with keynote speaker Vivian Fuller, athletic director at TSU. Cost for the breakfast and conference is \$40, with proceeds going to benefit the Girl Scout Council of Cumberland Valley.

On Saturday, Feb. 7, basketball clinics for girls will be held at Memo-

rial Gym. During the clinics, informational sessions on basketball will be held for parents of the participants.

The local sports day events are being coordinated by Paula McGee, a sports agent and former college and professional basketball player. Table sponsorships for the breakfast are being sought at \$20 per ticket or \$200 per table. For information, contact McGee at 731-0563 or the Girl Scouts at 383-0490.

National Girls and Women in Sports Day has been celebrated each February since 1987. The nationwide event includes a variety of activities that honor the achievements of girls and women in sports.

Did you know?

Eighty percent of women identified as key leaders in Fortune 500 companies participated in sports during their childhood and described themselves as having been "tomboys."

1998 MLK series

An activist who worked with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the civil rights movement of the 1960s will be the keynote speaker at the 1998 commemorative series, "Thinking and Talking Race: A National Dialogue."

The Rev. James L. Bevel will speak Tuesday, Jan. 20 at 7:30 p.m. in Benton Chapel. His speech is titled "Man, Citizen and the Assumption of Race."

Bevel was a co-founder of the Nashville student movement that turned the tide against segregation in the city in the early 1960s. He later headed Direct Action and Non-violent Education for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which King headed. More recently Bevel coordinated the 1996 Million Man March and Day of Atonement.

The month-long series will also feature an appearance by Dr. Carol Brunson Phillips, co-author of *Teaching/Learning Anti-Racism*.

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Calendar
of Events

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Women's Center



Please save and post. Individual flyers for these programs may not be sent.

Tuesday, January 6

Creative Life Planning Group meets weekly to share problem-solving information with other women and provide support in life changes. Noon to 1 p.m. Bring your lunch; drinks are provided. For more information call Judy Helfer at 322-6518 or e-mail judith.t.helfer@Vanderbilt.edu.

Monday, January 12

Dissertation Writers Organizational Meeting will be held from 4 to 5 p.m. with Darlene Panvini, Assistant Director of the Center for Teaching, facilitator. The group provides advice and support for women who are writing their doctoral dissertations. New students are admitted only at the beginning of each semester. Students should bring a typed abstract of their dissertation including their name, department, school, address, phone number(s) and e-mail address. Students who are unable to attend the organizational meeting should call 322-4843 and send their abstract to Darlene in care of the Women's Center, Box 1513 Station B.

Monday, January 12

Book Group meets to choose books for the next year. Criteria for selection: books of any genre by or about women and, for economy's sake, that are available in paperback. The group, which has been meeting since 1986, welcomes new members. 5:15 to 6:15 p.m.

Tuesday, January 13

Creative Life Planning Group. Noon to 1 p.m. *Also meets January 20 and 27.*

Tuesday, January 13

Women's Political Caucus reception for students interested in the political scene and in participating in meetings of the Nashville caucus. Women who hold political office and other members of the caucus will attend. 5 to 7 p.m.

Thursday, January 15

Artist's Reception for Anne Carter Brothers from 5 to 6 p.m. "Memories in Watercolor" will be on exhibit at the Women's Center from January 12 through February 28. Whether it's the vibrant streets of Provence or the windswept rocks of Maine, Brothers captures the moment and the memory with her paintings. (*See story, page 4.*)

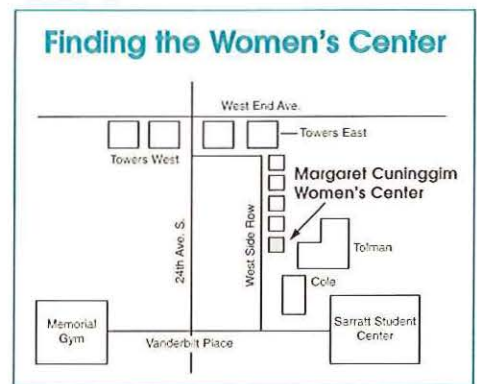
Friday, January 23

Staff and Faculty Breakfast: Meet the new director. Linda Manning, director of the Cunningham Center, will speak and get acquainted with faculty and staff. Join your peers at the University Club for a continental breakfast from 7:30 to 9 a.m. Reservations required by Wednesday, January 21. Fee \$5.

Wednesday, January 28

So You Want to Go to Law School? A panel of women law students from the Women Law Students Association will share their experiences with women who are considering a career in the law. 4:30 to 6 p.m.

The **Freelance Writers Group** will not meet in January. For information on the group, contact Judy Helfer at 322-6518.

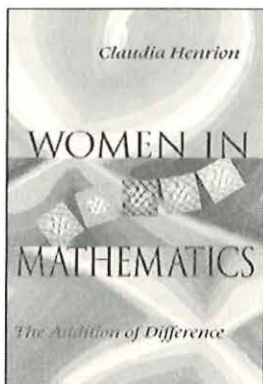


Unless otherwise stated, all programs are held at the Cunningham Center, Franklin Building, 316 West Side Row. For more information, please call 322-4843.



Greater numbers don't add up to success for women in math

Mathematician Claudia Henrion examines the current status of female mathematicians in *Women in Mathematics: The Addition of Difference* (Indiana University Press, 1997). The writer, a visiting professor at Dartmouth College, shows that while the number of women studying mathe-



matics in the U.S. has increased greatly over the past generation, there are still comparatively few women at the top of the field, and these women do not feel fully accept-

ed by the mathematics community. Forty-four percent of mathematics majors in college today are female, yet in institutions which grant doctorates, less than five percent of the tenured faculty members are women.

Old stereotypes that girls and women do not like or do not succeed in mathematics are slowly eroding, as are the unappealing images that some people still harbor of female mathematicians. The qualities many people consider desirable in women are quite different from those thought to be beneficial to mathematicians.

Henrion interviewed 11 prominent women mathematicians of varying ages, in different specialties, from different locations and of various racial and ethnic backgrounds. Their stories are incorporated into the text and there is also a section devoted to each woman and her experiences; some of these biographies and interviews are over 20 pages in length.

The writer hopes that her book will help to break down stereotypes about female mathematicians and

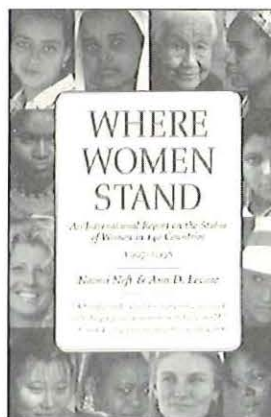
Barbara Clarke,
Women's Center
Librarian



that it will not only encourage girls to go into mathematics, but will help women already in the field to remain there. Many of the latter feel like outsiders, though the bias they encounter today is usually quite subtle. The writer feels that increasing the numbers of female role models alone will not improve the climate in the field; we need to identify and to understand the ideology that negatively impacts women. Henrion believes this ideology "defines the culture inside the community and . . . perpetuates an atmosphere that contributes to women's feeling marginalized."

Where Women Stand: An International Report on the Status of Women in 140 Countries, 1997-1998 (Random House, 1997)

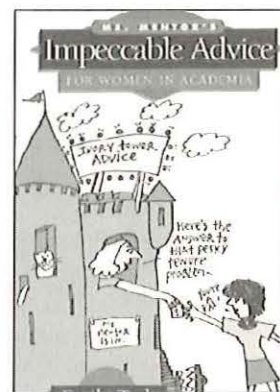
was compiled by Naomi Neft and Ann D. Levine. Sections of the volume deal with education, women's rights, employment, politics, violence against women, family planning and marriage and divorce. There are separate profiles of 21 countries in different parts of the globe. The statistics and the data presented in this work were gathered largely from official sources, including the United Nations, the World Bank, the World



Health Organization, the International Labor Organization, the U.S. Bureau of the Census and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

Emily Toth's *Ms. Mentor's Impeccable Advice for Women in Academia* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 1997) is a partly humorous, partly-serious look at the problems women face in the world of academe.

Since 1992 Toth, a professor of English and women's studies at Louisiana State University, has been



answering questions in her advice column in *Concerns*, the journal of the Women's Caucus for the Modern Languages.

The chapters are presented in chronological order, beginning with graduate school and concluding with "Emerita: The Golden Years." Each chapter has a short introduction, which is followed by a series of questions and answers. The advice, though basically sound, is presented in a very witty manner.

William A. Jenkins and Richard W. Oliver have written *The Eagle & The Monk: Seven Principles of Successful Change* (United Publishers, 1998), a volume detailing how individuals and organizations cope with change. Bill Jenkins, the recipient of the 1990 Mary Jane Werthan Award from the Women's Center, is Vice Chancellor for Administration and Oliver is a professor of management at the Owen Graduate School of Management at Vanderbilt University.

Pieces of the pie

Inspiring women lend new perspective to the task of making life choices

by Bronwen Blass (A&S '00)

When I left campus last April, I had just completed my first year here at Vanderbilt, including two semesters of calculus and chemistry and even a successful semester of BioSci. It was a big year for me in terms of new friends, new experiences, and new challenges, and I was feeling undecided about what I wanted to study and, eventually, to do for the rest of my life. I'd been pre-med all year, but it was becoming clear that although the thought of a profession centered on helping and caring appealed to me immensely, I just wasn't happy with the courses leading me there. I knew I wanted to help people and make a difference, but I just didn't know how I wanted to go about it.

At the time I was considering these questions, I applied for an opportunity to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders in Washington, D.C. I was fortunate enough to receive sponsorship from the Women's Center and so found myself arriving in our nation's capital last June. First of all, for those of you, who like myself, hadn't been to D.C. since an eighth-grade class trip, let me just say that Washington is one incredibly exciting city. Energy seems to run through the streets. I couldn't walk by a monument without getting goose bumps.

At the conference, I met women from across the country who were doing all sorts of exciting things on their campuses. I heard about "Take Back the Night" events, women's support groups, college-sponsored conferences, efforts towards racial reconciliation and diversity, and countless new opportunities such as internships, which I hope to take part in down the road.

One of the conference highlights was the Women of Distinction Awards Ceremony, which honored seven outstanding women. As I listened to these amazing women who ranged from singer/songwriter Mary Chapin Carpenter to Betty Baca, executive secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce to Nancy Gruver, founder and publisher of *New Moon* magazine for adolescent girls, I recognized the one commonality that ran throughout was that each of these women felt passionately about something and had acted. As a result, each had improved the lives of countless others and thus had made an impact with her life. Hearing their stories, I realized that there are many ways to help people and make a difference. It is only necessary to be passionate and committed to a cause. After the ceremony I was charged. I was ready to go out and solve all the

world's problems right then and there. I just needed to decide what to tackle first.

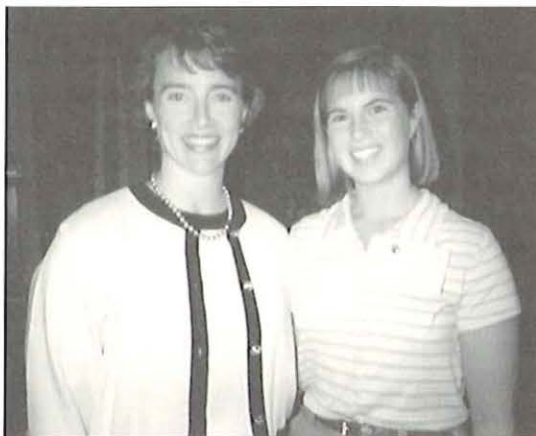
The next day I heard another speaker whose words remain with me. She was former U.S. Rep. Blanche Lambert Lincoln, the youngest woman ever elected to the House. One of the most enduring pieces of advice she gave concerned making choices in life. Lincoln had recently decided not to run for re-election because she was

expecting twins, and an interviewer asked if this meant women just can't have it all. Lincoln's response was, "On the contrary!" Using the analogy of a pie, she said that yes, you can have it all. You can have the whole pie. Sometimes you just have to eat it a piece at a time. The trick is to enjoy the piece you are eating at the time you are eating it and not to force yourself to eat the whole pie in one sitting. After all, who wants to eat an entire pie at once?

This life analogy makes sense to me and has helped me to enjoy the piece I am eating right now. With the many, many "pieces of pie" that I want to eat in my life-

time, there will be time for them, but not always concurrently. Hearing Lincoln and many other inspiring women speak that weekend was truly an eye-opening and definitely a perspective-gaining experience. I discussed women's leadership in both the political and business spheres. I brainstormed with other college women on the double standards set up for women at home and at work. It was an incredible experience. It helped me let go of being pre-med as I realized that was not where my passion lies. It opened my eyes to the realms of politics and psychology, both of which I am now considering as majors and careers. Basically, it strengthened my convictions, helped channel some of my energy and was a whole lot of fun.

This year, as president of Students for Women's Concerns, I'm making my contribution here at Vanderbilt as I try to plant the seeds of change and raise awareness of women's issues. The conference was a phenomenal and perhaps even life-changing experience which I enjoyed tremendously. Looking back at all that I did while I was there, however, I think the best part was the perspective, conviction, and enthusiasm that I brought home with me and can put to use here and now.



Blass meets former Congresswoman Blanche Lambert Lincoln (left) at the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders.

Students interested in attending the 1998 student leaders conference should contact Linda Manning, director of the Women's Center, at 322-4843.

Announcements

Calls for nominations

The Women's Center is seeking nominations for two awards given annually to recognize achievements by and in support of women on campus.

- The **Mentoring Award** honors a member of the university community who has fostered achievement by Vanderbilt women.
- The **Muliebrity Prize** is given to an undergraduate student who demonstrates leadership in activities that contribute to the achievements, interests and goals of women and girls, or that promote gender equity.

If you know someone who is deserving in either of these categories, please submit your nomination as soon as possible. Nomination forms are available at the Sarratt desk or at the Women's Center. A curriculum vitae of the nominee is also welcomed. *The deadline for submitting nominations for both awards is Jan. 30.*

The third annual statewide Women's Leadership Conference is seeking nominations for **Women of Achievement**. The awards recognize Tennessee women in three categories: students, faculty/administrators and community leaders. For information, contact Alice Meldrum, WLC director, at 904-8430.

Programs

Students for Women's Concerns welcomes interested students to its first meeting of the semester on Tuesday, Jan. 13. The group is making plans for a February campus appearance by Ellie Smeal, president of the Feminist Majority Foundation and former president of NOW. The meeting will be at 5 p.m. in the Community Partnership House, after which participants can join the Women's Political Caucus reception at the Women's Center.

The Middle Tennessee Women's Studies Association will hold its annual founders anniversary meeting on Saturday, Jan. 17, in the third-floor rotunda of the Social Religious building on the Peabody campus. The meeting begins with coffee at 9:30 a.m. and includes a business meeting, program and lunch at 11:45. The Vanderbilt Student Dance Company will present a performance of "Immolation," and Maureen Needham, associate professor of dance history at Blair, will give a presentation on "Early Modern Dancers as Revolutionaries." Historian Elisabeth Perry will also speak on the founding of MTWSA. There is no charge for MTWSA programs and guests are welcome. For information or to reserve a box lunch, call Dianne Eberhard at 343-2903.

An international nursing expert will speak Jan. 13 in an appearance sponsored by the Joint Center for Research at the Vanderbilt School of Nursing. Dr. Afaf Meleis, R.N., Ph.D., is professor at the School of Nursing, Univ. of California, San Francisco. The speech is titled "On Tolerance and Intolerance: Multicultural Issues in Healthcare Today and Tomorrow." The 9 a.m. program will be followed by coffee; location TBA. For information, call Doris Tilbury, 343-7618.

The National Association for Women in Education (NAWE) will hold its **1998 Annual Conference on Advancing Women in Higher Education** March 3-6 in Baltimore. Topic of the conference is "Who's at the Helm? Unresolved Issues. . . ."

Call for volunteers

Women volunteers are needed for **Decisions**, an eight-week course that teaches life-planning skills to inmates at the Tennessee Prison for Women. Volunteers work one-on-one with an inmate for one-hour weekly sessions during the eight weeks from Feb. 2 to March 23. Volunteer training is scheduled for Jan. 24-25. For information, call Kathy Masulis, program coordinator, at 352-7218.



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