

APPENDIX A: GENDER MATTERS THE CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Contemplating the History of Women at Yale

The celebration of the Tercentennial offers a chance to contemplate the history of women at Yale as a means to clarify our understanding of the present and our goals for the future. As we mark Yale's 300th year, we are keenly aware that the arrival of significant numbers of women at Yale, as students, staff, administration, and faculty, is a hallmark of this century.

How to record the history of women at Yale is one of the questions that frame this conference. Even the "first woman admitted" is not an unambiguous benchmark. For example, the first women to enroll as graduate students in the nineteenth century were admitted because the donor funding the School of Art required it to be open to women. The Law School admitted a woman in 1886 because, given her name, she was mistaken for a male applicant. Immediately thereafter, the Law School formalized a males-only admissions policy. The medical school admitted a woman in the 1910s, after her father countered the school's objection to admitting women by donating funds for building toilet facilities for women. Should we be celebrating these particular episodes?

Separate schools, with their diverse specializations, have different histories. The School of Nursing, for example, was founded in 1923 by women and did not enroll a male student until thirty years had passed, while the Forestry School did not enroll a female student until 1967. The undergraduate college first enrolled women in 1969—yet it would take many more changes for the school to outgrow centuries of institutional life as a school for men. How would we define the point at which women were fully integrated into Yale College? It was not until the 1990's that women and men were admitted in roughly similar numbers to study in Yale College. The creation in 1979 of the Women's Studies Program—and its transformation in 1998 into Women's and Gender Studies—are other markers of change in Yale College, and so is the appointment in 1991 of the first woman to serve as a dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

As we point to such individual moments, we remain keenly aware of continuing large issues. The faculty, administration, staff, the structure and content of a Yale education, of Yale's facilities, and nature of the university's goals—all are aspects of the current relationships of women to Yale. Much work is still necessary to complete the project of coeducation. The Women Faculty Forum has been established to recognize both the growing presence of women at Yale and the distance to go to ensure that women are full participants in all parts of the University. This conference is the first of many occasions to spark reflection on women's roles here and thinking about the years to come.

The conference *Gender Matters* took place on September 20–21, 2001. The program and persons as then identified are:

I. Women and Universities

Johnnetta Cole President of Bennett College, President Emerita of Spelman College

Nannerl O. Keohane President of Duke University

Nancy J. Vickers President of Bryn Mawr College

Co-moderators:

Elizabeth Dillon Assistant Professor of English and American Studies

Judith Resnik Arthur Liman Professor of Law

II. Invention: New Research Questions

Seyla Benhabib Eugene Meyer Professor of Political Science and Philosophy, Yale University

Alice Eagly Professor of Psychology, Northwestern University

Maxine Singer President, Carnegie Institution, Washington

***Brenda Stevenson** Professor of History, UCLA

***Shelley Taylor** Professor of Psychology, UCLA

Co-moderators:

Marianne LaFrance Professor of Psychology and Women's and Gender Studies

Priyamvada Natarajan Assistant Professor of Astronomy

Naomi Schor Benjamin F. Barge Professor of French

III. Imagination: Center of the Arts

Elizabeth Alexander Associate Professor of African American Studies (Adjunct), Yale University

***Maya Lin** Artist

Gloria Naylor Novelist

Sarah Pillsbury Producer, Sanford Pillsbury Productions

Co-moderators:

Dolores Hayden Professor of

Architecture, Urbanism, and American Studies

Mary E. Miller Vincent Scully Professor of History of Art

IV. Luncheon Remarks

Linda Lorimer Vice President and University Secretary of Yale University

V. Leadership: Reinventing the Local and the Global

Frances Beinecke Executive Director, Natural Resources Defense Council

Marian Wright Edelman President, Children's Defense Fund

Sally Stansfield Senior Program Officer, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Patricia M. Wald American Judicial Representative, The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia

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Co-moderators:

Mary L. Clark Research Scholar on Women in the Legal Profession

Kathleen Knafl Professor of Nursing

VI. Founders, Entrepreneurs, and Activists

Mishka Brown CEO of Aerolith Incorporated

Heidi Hartmann President and CEO, Institute for Women's Policy Research

Linda Mason Chairman and Founder, Bright Horizons Family Solutions

Co-moderators:

Nancy F. Cott Sterling Professor of History and American Studies

Sharon Oster Frederic D. Wolfe Professor of Economics and Management

*These speakers were scheduled to participate in the conference but were unable to do so because of the complexities of travel in the wake of September 11.