

# WGST Conference returns to campus

BY KIRA HINTZ  
Staff Writer

The 21st annual Women and Gender Studies Conference will return to Truman State University's campus January 2017 with a theme of "Engendering Social Justice."

The WGST conference presents creative abstracts from student and faculty submissions that are no longer than 250 words. Papers are chosen based on the quality of work and adherence to the theme.

Nancy Moore, health and exercise sciences professor, said she will be helping to coordinate the conference. Moore said she will work alongside WGST Conference chair Monica Barron, sociology professor Victoria Mayer and English professor Christine Harker.

Moore said the conference's theme was an idea she, Barron, Mayer and Harker came up with during their brief meetings. Moore said the purpose of the theme was to not only incorporate people with a feminist perspective, but to include and represent people from other perspectives who study different disciplines.

Moore said the WGST committee has booked Hannah Bonner, a social activist and Methodist minister, to be the keynote speaker for the conference. Moore said the Multicultural Affairs Center will co-sponsor Bonner's visit to campus January 2017.

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— Nancy Moore, health and exercise sciences professor

Although this is her first time coordinating a WGST Conference, Moore said she has attended WGST conferences in the past, and she said she thinks they're valuable.

"[The conference] was a place for students to have conversations over important [issues] and interact with faculty and other students and see what they're doing and how they're trying to progress equality," Moore said. "It's important to learn how to be an activist, whether out in the community or in academia and to [kind of] see those different ways."

Moore said the conference is also a good place for people to hear voices not normally heard in public spaces while also voicing their own opinions.

Moore said she encourages students and faculty to attend the conference because it can be a way to open up people's minds and possibly help them feel more comfortable discussing the ideas of feminism.

"[People should attend] if they want to learn how to progress social justice and see what's being done and gain more knowledge, to find people who are like-minded [and] to also, maybe, encourage you in your own efforts," Moore said.

Helping to provide guidance on next year's conference is previous WGST conference organizer Linda Seidel, who is an English professor and Director of Graduate Studies.

Seidel said the WGST Conference started at Truman State University in 1996 and began as a small-scale event.

"We had a bunch of papers, not even in very large rooms, but one of the hallmarks of this particular conference was that undergraduate students, graduate students, [and] faculty members presented papers together, which, as far as I know, is still unique on this campus and is somewhat unusual on most campuses, so I think it's one of our strong points," Seidel said. "And [what's special] is the very fact that we've been able to keep it going all this time, and I coordinated many of those conferences myself."

Seidel said the conference has had themes such as composing women, transgender issues and identities, and self-fashioning. Seidel said the conference has also managed to attract special guest speakers in the past, such as gender theorist Kate Bornstein.

Although initially skeptical of the idea of women's studies when she was younger, Seidel said the subject and the conference are both important because they allow people a chance to think beyond society's generalizations.

"Women are half the human race, you know," Seidel said. "And if you just study men and then try to generalize everything you learn about men to women as well, some of that's [going to] fit and some of it's really not [going to] fit. Taking account of gender and paying attention to it, I think, has really sort of made new insights possible for a lot of people. Really opened up our ways of thinking about how we get along with each other in the world and what difference gender issues make and so forth."

# Throwback Thursday: Changes in dorm policy

The Truman State University residence halls have changed a lot over the years, and so have the policies regarding them.

Men used to have to sign in to visit the women's dorms — Blanton, Brewer, Ryle and Centennial halls — but there was talk of getting rid of the policy on a trial basis, according to an Oct. 9, 1975 article.

"The sign-in procedure has been the policy for women's dorms since inter-dorm visitation began during the 1972-73 school year. It began on a trial basis on the weekends of home football games and has expanded from there. Currently men sign in by leaving their I.D. card and name in the lounge of the women's dorm. The men's dorms eliminated the sign-in procedure last spring. Their sign-in policy was a failure because no one would work taking I.D.s," according to the article.

Later that year, a new residence hall policy was put in place that would take effect the upcoming semester concerning student violations of University regulations.

The new policy called for any violation of University regulations to be initially reported by the resident assistant to the residence hall director, who would review the incident and initiate one of three options.

"1. Refer the student to Dean Smith. 2. Council the Student or send him/her to the Housing Office for counseling if necessary. 3. Refer the student to the dorm Judiciary Committee. If a student is found to be in violation, he or she will be given a choice of a fine (minimum of \$5) or a 'work-off.' 'Work-off' alternatives include duties such as cleaning up after a dorm activity, washing windows, or helping to lock up the dorm," according to a Dec. 11, 1975 article.

Though early in 1976 the housing contract policies came under scrutiny, the administration decided the policy of residence hall room inspection would remain a major provision of the housing contract.

Other provisions within the contract were added, including the housing contract that allowed the University to house guests in students' rooms and allowed the University to charge students for damages to their rooms.

"The provision allowing the University to house guests was added following controversy last year. The University had planned to house National Honor Society students in the dorms, but met with resistance on the part of dorm residents. The contract also absolves the University of responsibility for loss due to fire, theft or other damage," according to a Feb. 19, 1976 article.

The housing contracts were edited and reworded, a process that hadn't taken place since 1967.

A different article from the Feb. 19, 1976 issue discussed the addition of service charges for students regarding meal plans.

The changes were being considered to prevent students from getting replacement tickets and using them for friends instead of themselves.

"Service charges are being contemplated for students who need replacement meal tickets and who pay dormitory fees on a monthly basis. The possibility of different types of meal tickets being implemented is also being investigated," according to the article.

Jumping back a decade, an article from the Sept. 16, 1964 issue shows that all off-campus housing had to be approved by the Dean of Women, a position no longer at Truman.

"All students who live off campus shall live in approved housing and shall not change rooming places without the permission of the Dean of Women, Ruth Beal, and shall be required to give two weeks' notice, providing the Householder has met requirements as specified in the contract. Failure to keep the Office of the Dean of Women informed of any change may result in disciplinary action," according to the article.

We found it interesting to see how much has changed over the years in regards to residence hall policy, especially considering how strict the rules used to be for women. As Truman continues to grow and move forward, we'll be curious to know what changes will be made to accommodate future students seeking to live on campus.

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DEC. 4	2:00 PM 3:00 PM	Pink Floyd's Dark Side of the Moon Laser Country
DEC. 5	7:00 PM 8:00 PM	Laser Zeppelin Laser Holidays Album 1
DEC. 6	7:00 PM 8:00 PM	Laser Beatles Laser Vinyl
DEC. 7	7:00 PM 8:00 PM	Laser Holidays Album 2 Pink Floyd's Dark Side of the Moon
DEC. 8	7:00 PM 8:00 PM	Laser Country Laser Zeppelin
DEC. 9	7:00 PM 8:00 PM	Laser Vinyl Laser Holidays Album 1
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