Women’s Private Writing/Writing Women’s History
An Interdisciplinary Conference

University of New England
Westbrook College Campus
Portland, Maine

June 15 - 17, 2000
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Conference Directors

Dr. Elizabeth A. De Wolfe, Assistant Professor of American Studies, University of New England
Dr. Candace Kanes, Assistant Professor of History, Bates College, and, the Maine College of Art

Conference Planning Committee

Dick Buhr, University Relations
Roberta (Bobby) Gray, Library/Public Services
Cally Gurley, Curator, Maine Women Writers Collection
Pat Milligan, Library/Technical Services
Robin Russell ’00, Conference Assistant
Barbara Swartzlander, Library/Public Services

The Directors and Planning Committee gratefully acknowledge the support and assistance of:

Janice Beal (Library/Public Services); Ken Beck (Maintenance & Grounds); Cheryl Boots (Musician Extraordinaire); Maryann Corsello (Stevens Avenue Project); Ellen Parsons Croninger & Sandy Deluca (Dean’s Office, College of Arts & Sciences); Sandra Featherman (President, UNE); Stacy Gato (Israel College Program); Denise Gendron (Admin. Asst./Humanities); Andrew Golub (Information Resources); Sandy Haas (Security); Holly Haywood (Media Services); Cathy Herbert (Holiday Inn West); Andrew Horvath (Media Services); Jaime Hylton (Dept. of English); Stan Maloney (Performance Management); Janet Morelli (Friends of Evergreen Cemetery); Nancy Noble (Center for Maine History); Amy Pednault (CAS Admin. Asst.); Portland Public Library; Ray Ross (Dining Service); Paulette St. Ours (Dean’s Office, College of Arts & Sciences); Robin Sanford (Abplanalp Library); Linda Sartorelli (Dept. of Philosophy); Judi Scharff (Social & Behavioral Science); Lorraine Star (Dept. of Humanities); UNE Facilities & Housekeeping Staff; UNE Security; Kari Wagner (Media Services); Cheryl Wooley (WCC Bookstore); Anne Zill (Art Gallery).

Women’s Private Writing/Writing Women’s History was sponsored by the Maine Women Writers Collection with the generous support of the University of New England Department of Humanities, Office of University Relations, Office of the President, UNE Bookstore at the Westbrook College Campus, and Northern Utilities Natural Gas.
Women's Private Writing/Writing Women's History
June 15-17, 2000

Schedule

THURSDAY, JUNE 15

Registration at Holiday Inn West, 81 Riverside Street, Portland, 5-8 p.m.
Reception, pool-side at Holiday Inn, 5-7 p.m.
Sponsored by the Office of the President, UNE. Musical Entertainment: Cheryl Boots, Salem, Mass.

FRIDAY, JUNE 16

Registration, UNE- Westbrook College Campus, 8-9 a.m.
Alumni Hall, Room 12
Coffee, tea available

Session 1 – 9:00-10:30 a.m.
(A.) Dear Diary: Costs and Benefits of Using Women's Journals
Alumni Hall, Room 11
Chair: Donna deFabio Curtin, Plymouth Antiquarian Society
Jane Lancaster, Brown University, and Ruthie Spruill, actress, "Julia and Friends" (Teenage Girls' Diaries, 1780s-1920s)
Rick Stattler, Rhode Island Historical Society, "Sharing the Diaries of Early Rhode Island Women"

(B.) Women and the Contemplative Life: Intellect and Religion
Alumni Hall, Room 17
Chair: Pat Milligan, University of New England
Elizabeth Sexton, University of Toledo, "Letters of Familiarity: The Correspondence Between Laura Cereta and Brother Tomasso of Milan"
Donald C. Sniegowski, Notre Dame, "The Trope of the 'Solitary Thinker' in the Letters of Mary Philippa Meadows, 1811-1891"
Cheryl Boots, Boston University, "I tremble as I write: Private Reflections and Public Performances of Deborah Davis Millet Taylor"

(C.) Writing the Pioneering Life
Alumni Hall, Room 15
Chair: Barbara Swartzlender, University of New England
Adrienne Caughfield, Texas Christian University, "Stranger Friends' for Scribbling Women: Change and Community in the Trans-Mississippi West"
Verla Brown, Dallas Public Schools, "Women in Isolation: Women on the American Frontier"
Cathleen C. Palmiini, University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, Library, "Across Unknown Waters to Wisconsin: the Migration Writing of Women Settlers"

And Showing in the Video Lounge, Abplanalp Library: Journey to America (60 minutes)
Break -- 10:30-11:00 a.m., Abplanalp Library courtyard (Coffee, Tea, & Muffins)
(Rain location: Hersey Hall Breezeway)

Session 2 – 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

(A.) The Extraordinary Common Place: Quotation Books and Handwork

Chair: Kay Johnston, Colgate University
Sarah Wider, Ellen Kraly, Colgate University, “The Originality of Quotation: Women’s Common Place Books”
Susannah Quern, Colgate University, “Reading Past and Present from Eliza Easton’s Diaries”
Sarah Rose Dangelas, University of Maryland, “Handwork for Sale Inside: The Entrepreneurial Spirit of Marion Mott Littlefield”

Alumni 15

(B.) Elite Women in the International Arena

Chair: Janice Beal, University of New England
Evelyn Cherpak, Naval War College, “A Diplomat’s Lady in Brazil: The Diaries of Mary Robinson Hunter, 1834-1848”
Monika Biller Harris, United States Senate Page School, “Telegraph-Style Writing as a Form of Empowerment: A Reading of Sophie Mereau’s Diary, 1770-1806”

Alumni 17

(C.) Southern Women’s Encounters with Slavery

Chair: Roberta (Bobby) Gray, University of New England
Rory Dicker, Vanderbilt University, “Slavery’s ‘Involuntary Accomplice’: Moral Degradation in Fanny Kemble’s Journal of a Residence”
Pamela Clements, Siena College, “The Death of Papa”
Charles Wilbanks, University of South Carolina, “Guilt and Redemption: Angelina Grimke’s Three Conversations as Reflected in Her Diaries, 1829-1833”

And Showing in the Video Lounge, Abplanalp Library: A Midwife’s Tale (90 minutes)

Alumni 11

Lunch – 12:45-1:45 p.m., Alexander Hall

Keynote Presentation – 2:00-3:00 p.m., Ludcke Auditorium

Opening Remarks: Elizabeth De Wolfe and Candace Kanes, Conference Directors
Welcome: Dr. Sandra Featherman, President, University of New England
Keynote Address: Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, Harvard University,
“Getting All the Butter From the Duck: The Art of Reading Women’s Diaries”

Break – 3:00-3:30 p.m., Library Courtyard, Light refreshments (rain location: Hersey Hall Breezeway)

Book Sales - 3:00-6:30 p.m., Abplanalp Library
Books by conference participants available for purchase. See complete list at end of conference program.
Session 3 – 3:30-5:00 p.m.

(A.) Ensuring the Legacy: Using the Primary documents of Women’s History in a Variety of Settings

Proctor Hall, Room 105

Chair: Kathleen Banks Nutter, Sophia Smith Collection, Smith College

Susan Sanborn Barker, writer, “The Use of Primary Source Material in Teaching a Journal Writing Class”


Peter Nelson, The Jones Library, Inc., Amherst, “Things You Can Find on the Web: The Digitization of Women’s Manuscripts at the Five College Consortium”

(B.) Same-sex Relationships: Lesbians, Passionate Friends, or Something Else? Alumni 11

Chair: Barbara Swartzlander, University of New England

Sylvia Martin, independent scholar, “Passionate Friends: Mary Fullerton, Mabel Singleton, and Miles Franklin”

Carolyn Gage, playwright, “Writing Lesbian History: Outing the Dead or Reclaiming Our Own?”

Katherine Perdue, York University, Toronto, “Dear Lamb, I Am at Your Feet”: The Letters of Drs. Frieda Fraser and Edith Bickerton Williams, 1925-1927

(C.) Domestic Concerns and the Process of Writing Alumni 15

Chair: Linda Sartorelli, University of New England

Jane Weiss, Hunter College, “I Am Writing, Writing': Real Life into Domestic Realism in Susan Warner’s Journal”

Aviva Taubenfeld, Columbia University, “I Hate Writing’: Abigail Franks and the Frustrations of Epistolarity”

Paula M. Woods, Baylor University, “Lady Anne Clifford: Her Roles as Caregiver”

And Showing in the Video Lounge, Abplanalp Library: A Midwife’s Tale (90 minutes)

Book Signing and Reception – 5:00 - 6:30 p.m., Abplanalp Library

Sponsored by the UNE- Westbrook College Campus Bookstore
SATURDAY, JUNE 17

Registration, UNE-Westbrook College Campus, 7:30-8:30 a.m.
Coffee, tea available

Session 4 - 8:30-10:00 a.m.
(A.) Valuing Women's Experiences: From Housework to Politics
   Chair: Lorraine Star, University of New England
   Andrea Newlyn, Indiana University, “Challenging Contemporary Narrative Theory: The
   Alternative Textual Strategies of 19th-Century Manuscript Cookbooks”
   Janet Floyd, King Alfred’s College of Higher Education, “A monotony of repetition and
   routine: re-reading the diary of housework”
   Mari Firkatian, Tunxis Community College, “Nadejda Stancioff – A Countess’ Daughter, a
   Prime Minister’s Indispensable Aide, a Woman of Many More Accomplishments”

(B.) Extending Women’s Sphere: Activism and War Experiences
   Chair: Stan Maloney, University of New England
   Dorothy Shawhan, Delta State University, “How Private Lives Reflect and Shape the Public
   Life: Foremothers of Judge Lucy Somerville Howorth”
   Anne B. Gass, consultant, “Voting Down the Rose: the Life and Times of Florence Brooks
   Whitehouse”
   Laurie McNeill, University of British Columbia, “Bound Into a Chronicle: The War Chronicle
   of Natalie Crouser”

(C.) Noted Writers: Private Demons and Literary Dilemmas
   Chair: Jaime Hylton, University of New England
   Susan Balee, Beaver College, “Flannery O’Connor’s Darker Letters”
   Melissa Eden, Hanover College, “Maggie’s Greatest Loss: George Eliot’s Notebooks and the
   Problem Ending of The Mill on the Floss”
   Patrick W. Bryant, Georgia State, “The Mind Alone”: Emily Dickinson’s Early
   Correspondence with Thomas Wentworth Higginson”

And Showing in the Video Lounge, Abplanalp Library: Not For Ourselves Alone, part 1 (90 mins.)

Break – 10-10:30 a.m., Library Courtyard (Coffee, Tea & Muffins)

Book Sales — 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Abplanalp Library

Session 5 - 10:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m.
(A.) The Paper Trail: Lovers and Scholars in Hot Pursuit
   Chair: Dr. Maryanne Dever, Monash University (Melbourne), “Intimate Correspondences:
   Lovers, Letters and Literary Scholars”
   Sally Newman, Monash University, “Body of Evidence: Aileen Palmer’s Textual Lives”
   Maureen Sabine, U. of Hong Kong, “Dead Letters Tell No Tale: The Uncanny Life of Love
   Letters in A.S. Byatt’s Possession”
   Bishop”

Alumni 12
Alumni 17
Alumni 15
Alumni 11
Session 5 – 10:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m. (Continued)

(B.) Creating a Network of Women Through Letters, Diaries
Chair: Roberta (Bobby) Gray, University of New England
Katharine Patterson, University of British Columbia, “Epistolary Bodies in Space: a Cyborgian Approach to the Letters of Victorian Women Writers”
Luise van Keuren, Green Mountain College, “The Diaries of Mary Lydia Rickert Wood and Florence B. Ricker: Life in a Realm of Women”
Marlene Baldwin Davis, College of William and Mary, “From Shropshire to Shanghai: The China Diaries of Stella Benson, 1920-1933”

(C.) Creating Self/Understanding Others Through Private Writing & Oral History
Chair: To Be Announced
Marie-Paule Ha, University of Hong Kong, “Reading the Personal Narratives of French Colonial Women from Indochina”
Rachael Selby, Massey University (New Zealand), “Before We Begin: Understanding Ourselves and Our Participants”
Matthew Dowling, Providence College, “The Story of a Soul: The Private Reflections of a Modern Saint”

And Showing in the Video Lounge, Abplanalp Library: Not For Ourselves Alone, part 2 (90 mins.)

Lunch – 12:15-1:15, Alexander Hall

Session 6 – 1:30-3 p.m.

(A.) Methodological Challenges: What Gets Preserved, How It Gets Preserved, and What to Do With It
Chair: Roberta (Bobby) Gray, University of New England
Howard M. Wach, Bronx Community College, “Streams of Consciousness: Writing the Private, Public, and Historical Lives of Caroline Healy Dall”
Susan Jones and Kathleen Anderson, Palm Beach Atlantic College, “Dumpster Discoveries: Salvaging the Texts of Women’s Lives”
Matt Gallman, Gettysburg College, “The Many Worlds of Anna Elizabeth Dickinson: Thoughts on Unraveling the Life of a Nineteenth Century Celebrity”

(B.) Resources for the Study of Women – roundtable discussion
Kathleen Nutter, Sophia Smith Collection, Smith College
Cally Gurley, Maine Women Writers Collection, Westbrook College Campus, University of New England
Ondine LeBlanc, Massachusetts Historical Society and The New England Women’s Diaries Project, Boston
Cristina Favretto, Center for Women’s History and Culture, Duke University

And Showing in the Video Lounge, Abplanalp Library: Sins of Our Mothers: The Story of Emmeline (60 minutes)
Break – 3:00 - 3:30 p.m., Library Courtyard, Light refreshments (rain location: Hersey Hall Breezeway)

Session 7 – 3:30 -5:00 p.m.  
(A.) Issues in Writing About One’s Own Relatives  
Chair: Judi Scharff, University of New England  
Elena Creef, Wellesley College, “In My Mother’s Voice: Writing a Japanese War-Bride’s Life History”  
Josie Csete, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, and Margaret Arnold, retired, “Between the Lines: A Daughter and Granddaughter Respond to the 1917-1972 Journals of Jennie Waterman Arnold”  

(B.) Shades of Reform: Victorian Women Writers and Cultural Critique  
Chair: Cally Gurley, University of New England  
Michele Troy, Loyola University Chicago, “Protests in the Parlor: Margaret Jane Mussey Sweat and the Women’s Club Movement”  
Lisa Tetrault, University of Wisconsin-Madison, “Revising the History: Alternative Narratives of Women’s Suffrage”  

(C.) Tour of Evergreen Cemetery with emphasis on women of note  
Guide: Janet Morelli, Friends of Evergreen Cemetery, Portland  
Beneath the modest headstones which read “wife” and “mother,” lie women who raised eyebrows by marching for women’s rights, becoming doctors, running businesses, busting dope rings, writing scandalous novels, and traveling... unaccompanied. Janet Morelli will lead a walking tour which celebrates the accomplishments and independent spirit of the notable women at Evergreen.  

And Showing in the Video Lounge, Abplanalp Library: Fly Girls (60 minutes)  

Closing Reception -- 5:00 - 6:30 p.m., Art Gallery  
Sponsored by the Department of Humanities
Women's Private Writing / Writing Women's History
Book Sales and Book Signing

Book Sale Hours: Friday, June 16, 3:00 - 6:30 p.m. and Saturday, June 17, 10:00 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.
Book Signing and Reception: Friday, June 16, 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

The following books and materials are available for purchase in the Abplanalp Library:

Laurel Thatcher Ulrich,

Videocassette—A Midwife's Tale (PBS Home Video).

Susan Balee, Flannery O'Connor: Literary Prophet of the South (Chelsea House, 1995).

Carol Burdick, Stop Calling Me Mr. Darling! (Paul S. Eriksson, 1988).


Janet Floyd (ed.), Domestic Space: Reading the Nineteenth-Century Interior (Manchester Univ. Press, 1999).

Carolyn Gage, The Second Coming of Joan of Arc and Other Plays (Herbooks, 1994).
Like There's No Tomorrow: Meditations for Women Leaving Patriarchy (Common Courage Press, 1997).

Jane Lancaster, By The Pens of Females (Rhode Island Historical Association, 2000).

Rachael Selby, Still Being Punished (Huia Publishers [New Zealand], 1999).

Dorothy Shawhan, Lizzie (Longstreet Press, 1995).

Jane Weinberger, Canned Plums and Other Vicissitudes of Life (Windswept House, 1999).

Sarah Ann Wider, Anna Tilden. Unitarian Culture, and the Problem of Self-Representation (Univ. of Georgia, 1997).
Academic History

Westbrook College, always located in the same geographic place, has had three name changes - Westbrook Seminary, Junior College, and Westbrook College - and has been located in three towns - Westbrook (1831-1870), Deering (1871-1898), and Portland (1899- ).

Westbrook Seminary, a co-ed boarding school that existed for 91 years, had its beginnings in September, 1830 when the Kennebec Association of Universalists resolved that a school that would promote "piety and morality" be established at Steven's Plains in Westbrook. The Universalists, whose belief in salvation for all people differed from the Calvinist belief in salvation for those who had been divinely selected, wanted their young people to have an educational environment that would not conflict with or refute their religious beliefs.

The charter for Westbrook Seminary was signed by Governor Daniel Smith, March 4, 1831. The campus's original eight acres were a gift to the Association from Zachariah Stevens (Steven's Plains and the present Stevens Avenue were named for him) and Oliver Buckley. Three years passed before the first class was held on June 9, 1834 in the newly constructed Seminary Building which is now called Alumni Hall. Tuition was three dollars for "common English studies" and four dollars and a half for "languages and higher branches of the mathematics." Male and female students, who were "admitted to equal privileges," boarded in neighboring homes for a dollar and a quarter a week. For comparison purposes, it is interesting to note that Lowell mill workers, many of whom were the same age as the seminary students, earned $1.60 a week, which was considered a good wage.

Although it was founded by the Universalists and its first principal was Steven's Plains Universalist minister Samuel Brimblecom, Westbrook Seminary did not teach any sectarian doctrine. However, students were required to attend daily devotional exercises and Sunday services. After All Soul's (Ludke) was built, students who did not have written parental permission to attend another church were obliged to attend services there- This regulation continued until the 1930s.

Strict rules governed the students' behavior in and out of class. A late 19th century catalog states that the Seminary is "not a suitable one for those who are idle, wayward, or averse to study." In 1886, the female

http://www.une.edu/wc/history.html
students informed the Seminary president that for one week they would disregard all rules that they thought were too restrictive. One of the rules that they ignored was the one that required them to be escorted or chaperoned if they walked to Morrill’s Corner.

By the 1890s, the Seminary offered four courses of study: a three year English course, and four year programs titled Scientific, Ladies’ Classical, and Preparatory. Young women who completed the Ladies’ Classical or the Scientific course received either a Laureate of Arts or a Laureate of Science, degrees which seemed to be unique to Westbrook.

In the last part of the nineteenth century, the Seminary added chemistry and physics labs to Alumni Hall, and promoted a serious interest in athletics that lead to the construction of McArthur Gym in 1900.

When Clarence Quimby became Seminary president in 1914, he attempted to convince the Trustees and faculty that the institution should concentrate on women’s two year college education. Unable to implement his plan, he left in 1920. Within five years, however, the cost of co-education and competition from other prep schools convinced the Trustees to authorize the Seminary to add a two year women’s college curriculum. The last Co-ed Seminary class graduated in the spring of 1925.

Gradually, the junior college added courses of study to its curriculum. By 1936, three years after it dropped its preparatory program, the institution had eleven programs, seven of which prepared young women to transfer as juniors to four year colleges or universities.

Westbrook Junior College, with its career-oriented two year programs, increased its enrollment from 27 in 1933 to 370 in 1947. Since Goddard and Hersey could not house all the students, the junior college purchased buildings on College Street and Stevens Avenue for senior students who were supervised by either house mothers or faculty who lived in these small home-like residences. Several of these houses also contained classrooms.

During the 1960s, the junior college, with the assistance of major grants and federal money, constructed six buildings - Linnell, Gunn, MacDougal, Alexander, Blewett, and Coleman. Despite their size, the large dormitories were easier and less costly to maintain than the numerous smaller houses. They also permitted more regulated supervision of the resident students.

During the seventies, the Art Gallery was the only new building on the campus. The campus itself, however, increased in size when the college exchanged property on Stevens Avenue for 25 acres of woods and fields.

Two major academic changes occurred in the 70s. Looking toward the future, the Trustees legally changed the institution's name to Westbrook College. Federal legislation that prohibited granting federal funds to colleges that practiced gender discrimination prompted the college to return to co-education. The first Westbrook College male students enrolled in the 1973 fall semester.

In the 1980s and early 1990s the College continued to build upon the 1970s decisions. Westbrook made a firm commitment to four-year programs that combined liberal arts with professional education. The new Josephine S. Apllanalp ’45 Library opened in 1986, contributing to the College’s academic strength while the new Beverly Burpee Finley ’44 Recreation Center was completed in 1989, providing sports and leisure opportunities.

Despite new programs and buildings, the College in the late 1980s and early 1990s found itself caught in national trends of dwindling enrollments that especially hit small colleges hard. By the mid 1990s, College trustees began looking at other institutions for a possible merger. On July 31, 1996, Westbrook College and the University of New England in Biddeford merged, creating a larger, more diverse institution of higher learning. The merger took place under the original 1831 Westbrook College charter. When the documents were signed, the combined institutions became Westbrook College, and then Westbrook College changed its name to the University of New England, which now maintains two distinct campuses: the Westbrook College Campus and the University Campus.

Today the Westbrook College Campus is a vital institution. It is home to a nationally acclaimed Dental Hygiene Program that offers both a three-year associate degree and a four-year baccalaureate degree. The Children’s Center, with its preschool and kindergarten classes, provides both a service to the community and
The University of New England

a laboratory for the campus's early childhood education students. The University's nursing programs have been consolidated on the Westbrook College Campus in Blewett Hall, which was renovated in the summer of 1998. The Department of Nursing now provides students five fully accredited entryways into the nursing profession. The Maine Women Writers Collection, a pre-eminent special collection of literary, cultural and social history sources by and about Maine women, was designated a national Literary Landmark and continues to host local women's studies programs and national conferences. The Art Gallery reopened in April 1998 with an exhibit titled "Seasons of Change: Maine Women Artists and Nature," and offers a series on ongoing exhibitions of art and photography. In addition, an expanded Division of Continuing Education and the Center for Business Information Technology are reaching out to area residents and businesses to provide needed educational and professional development programs to the greater Portland community.

UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND

Westbrook College Campus, Portland

Facilities Key
1. Admissions Office
2. Alexander Hall/Student Union/Dining Complex
3. Alumni Hall
4. Beverly Burpee Finley ('44) Recreation Center
5. Blewett Science Center
6. Children's Center
7. Coleman Dental Hygiene Building
8. Eleanor deWolfe Ludke ('26) Auditorium
9. Hersey Hall
10. Goddard Hall
11. Josephine S. Alplanalp ('45) Library
12. Linnell Residence Hall
13. McDougall/Ginn Residence Hall
14. Melville House
15. Athletic Fields
16. President's House
17. Proctor House
18. Tennis Courts
19. Art Gallery
20. Facilities Management