The Complex Web of Women’s Friendships
An Interdisciplinary Conference

June 20–22, 2002
University of New England, Westbrook College Campus, Portland, Maine

Keynote Speakers: Farah Jasmine Griffin

Farah Jasmine Griffin, a native of South Philadelphia, is Professor of English, Comparative Literature and African American Studies at Columbia University. She is the editor of Beloved Sisters and Loving Friends: Letters from Rebecca Primus and Addie Brown, author of If You Can’t Be Free, Be A Mystery: In Search of Billie Holiday and Who Set You Flowin?: The African American Migration Narrative, and co-editor of A Stranger in the Village: Two Centuries of African American Travel Writing.

Conference Focus
Join an interdisciplinary group of scholars, students, and others who are interested in contemplating how friendships between and among women have helped women understand difference, bring about social change, succeed in the world, and accomplish other goals. During the conference, we will explore case studies of particular friendships, as well as examine larger issues about friendships and women. Session topics include friendship and letter writing, class and coalitions of women, professional networks, interracial friendships, cross-cultural and cross-class friendships, citizenship and activism, literary friendships, the intersection of sexuality and friendship, performing and community, and more.

We Welcome ...
We welcome participation from educators of all levels, librarians, archivists, museum professionals and those interested in women’s writing, friendship and history. For further information on panels and presenters, see our website.

Book-Signing & Reception
Join participating authors at a wine and cheese reception and book-signing Friday evening. June 21. Books will be available for purchase at the event.

The Maine Women Writers Collection
The Complex Web of Women’s Friendships is one of several conferences that have been sponsored by the Maine Women Writers Collection on UNE’s Westbrook College Campus. Founded in 1959 to honor and preserve the writings of Maine women achieving literary recognition, the Maine Women Writers Collection, located in the Josephine S. Apland Library, is a preeminent collection of published and unpublished works by and about Maine women writers. The Collection has more than 5,000 volumes from more than 500 Maine women, illustrating and chronicling the authors’ times, circumstances, and experiences.

Funding
This Conference is made possible by the Maine Women Writers Collection Endowment at the University of New England. Generous support also is provided by the University of New England Libraries, the UNE Department of English and the Bookstore at the Westbrook College Campus.

For Further Information
Visit Our Website: www.une.edu/mwwc

Conference Directors:
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For more information about the Maine Women Writers Collection:
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Please Post: Registration Form on Back
Campus Facilities: Many of the University of New England's facilities are handicapped-accessible. If you require special services to participate fully in this program, contact the conference directors in advance.

Registration: Registration fee - before May 1: $75, May 1 or after: $85 (includes evening receptions; lunch Friday and Saturday, and breaks with refreshments). Fee for current students: $65. Fee for one day: $40. To register, send the registration form with a check made payable to the University of New England.

Housing: A block of rooms has been reserved at the Holiday Inn Portland West at Exit 8 off I-95 (81 Riverside Street) at a conference rate of $75 per night (double room); triples and quads also available. Call (207) 774-5601 for reservations by May 20, 2002. Shuttle vans will transport participants between the Holiday Inn and the University, which is four miles away. See our website or call the Portland Visitors Information Center at (207) 772-5800 for information on other hotels and bed and breakfasts in the Portland area.

Cancellation/Refunds: Early registration is recommended as space is limited. Participants who choose to withdraw 10 or more business days prior to the conference will receive a refund less a $15 processing fee; fewer than 10 business days prior to the program, no refund. The University reserves the right to cancel this conference because of insufficient enrollment or other unforeseen circumstances. In the event of cancellation, registrants will receive a full refund.

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