The Complex Web of Women’s Friendships

University of New England
Westbrook College Campus
Portland, Maine

June 20-22, 2002
The Complex Web of Women’s Friendships

Conference Directors

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Jennifer Tuttle, Dorothy Healy Assistant Professor of English, University of New England

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

Matthew Anderson (Dept. of English); Lemuel Berry (Vice-President for Academic Affairs); Berkeley Mailings; Cheryl Boots (musician extra ordinaire); Dick Buhr (UNE Webmaster); Jacque Carter (Dean, College of Arts & Sciences); Jeff Carter (Sodexho); Heather Connellan (UNE ’05); Ellen Parsons Croninger & Sandy Deluca (Dean’s Office, College of Arts & Sciences); Custom Coach & Limousine;
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Eileen York (WCC Bookstore); and Anne Zill (Art Gallery).

The Complex Web of Women’s Friendships was sponsored by the Maine Women Writers Collection with the generous support of the University of New England Department of English and the UNE Bookstore at the Westbrook College Campus.
The Complex Web of Women's Friendships
University of New England/Westbrook College Campus
June 20-22, 2002

Program of Events

THURSDAY, JUNE 20

Registration at the Holiday Inn West, 81 Riverside Street, Portland, 5-8 p.m.
Reception, pool-side at the Holiday Inn, 5-7 p.m.
Musical accompaniment by Cheryl Boots, Marblehead, Massachusetts.

FRIDAY, JUNE 21

Registration, UNE-Westbrook College Campus, 8:00 -9:00 a.m.  Sarton Room, Maine Women Writers Collection, Library

Session 1  9-10:30 a.m.  Proctor 202
(A) Education: Mentors and Friends
Chair: Jaime Hylton, University of New England
Beth Burmester, University of Illinois at Chicago, "Beyond Masters and Mentors: Gender and Friendship in Graduate Student/Faculty Relationships and Teaching Writing, with Lessons from Emily Dickinson"
Holly Maluk, Emory University, "They Call Us the Multicultural Clique: Young Women's Cross-Race Friendships in American High Schools"
Nancy A. Young, Smith College Archives, "Such fortune never came into my wildest earthly dream, Composita Octoginta-Sex, the soul of 1886"

(B) Crossing Cultures  Proctor 200
Chair: Pat Milligan, University of New England
Marcia Schmidt Blaine, Plymouth State College, "Friendship and Survival: An English Captive Among the French and Abenaki"
Julia Huston Nguyen, Louisiana State University, "Connecting Two Worlds: Anglo-Creole Friendships in Antebellum Louisiana"
Rowena Edlin-White, University of Nottingham, England, "Friends Abroad: Kate Douglas Wiggin (1856-1923) in Great Britain and Europe"

(C) A Network of One's Own: Gender, Desire, and Dissemblance  Proctor 200
Chair: Audni Miller, University of New England
Marlene Davis, College of William and Mary, "Woman as Heroic Other: The Gender of Professionalism"
Cathy Clay, Lancaster University, "Diaries and Doppelgangers: A Gothic Reading of the Friendship of Stella Benson (1892-1933) and Laura Hutton (1889-1974, doctor)
Kathleen Brown, St. Edward’s University, “Congenial Friends: Friendship Networks and Radical Politics.”

Break 10:30-11 a.m.  Library Courtyard

Keynote Presentation: 11:00-noon  Ludcke Auditorium
Welcoming Remarks: Conference Directors
Welcome to UNE: Lemuel Berry, Vice-President for Academic Affairs, UNE
Keynote Address: Farah Jasmine Griffin, Columbia University
"Beloved Sisters, Loving Friends: Black Women's Friendship from Slavery to Freedom"

Lunch 12:15-1:30  Alexander Hall
FRIDAY, JUNE 21

Session II 1:45-3:15

(A) Interracial Friendships
Chair: To Be Announced
Cheryl Boots, Boston University, "Female Friendships in Four Girls at Cottage City (1898): Modeling Multiracial America in Fiction"
Ingrid E. Castro, Northeastern University, "Relationships Through the Lens: Women’s Interracial Friendships in Film"
Ivy Schweitzer, Dartmouth College, "Miscegenation, Aristotle and the Invisibility of Women’s Interracial Friendships"

(B) Literature, Oppression, and Friendship
Chair: To Be Announced
Lin Knutson, Southeastern Louisiana University, "Creoles, Captialism, and Female Space in Michelle Cliff’s Free Enterprise"
Catherine Parrish, Rowan University, "Cracking India: Women at the Fault Line"
Maryann McLoughlin, Rowan University, "Masters or Sisters: Now there’s a Choice"

Break 3:15-3:30

Library Courtyard

Session III 3:30-5:00

(A) Roundtable: Globalizing Academic Friendships and Feminist Alliances
Kayann Short, University of Colorado
Katheryn Rios, University of Colorado
Pamela Thoma, Colby College

(B) Citizenship and Activism
Chair: Matthew Anderson, University of New England
Wendy E. Chmielewski, Swarthmore College Peace Collection, "Feminism, Politics, Peace and Women’s Friendship: The Case of the Women’s Encampment for a Future of Peace and Justice"
Elisabeth Israels Perry, Saint Louis University, "Civic Activism and Women’s Friendships in the Postsuffrage Era"
Lewis Perry, Saint Louis University, "Abby Smith and Her Cows, Passive Resistance, and Women’s Citizenship"

(C) Sexuality and/or Friendship
Chair: Jennifer Tuttle, University of New England
Jan Whitt, University of Colorado, "What Happened to Idgie and Celie?: Apparitional Lesbians in American Film"
Marianne Legault, University of Melbourne, "Deviant Narrative: Retracing the Genealogy of Female Friendship in Seventeenth Century France"
Holly Norton, University of Northwestern Ohio, "The Two Sides of the V: Orlando as Tribute to the Transcendent Friendship of Virginia Woolf and Vita Sackville-West"

Book Signing and Reception 5:00-6:30 p.m.  Abplanalp Library, second floor & mezzanine
Join the keynote speaker and conference participant authors for wine and cheese on the upper level of the library. Books will be available for purchase (a complete list of participating authors and available books follows the program of events). Our thanks to Casco Bay Books for handling the book sale, and, to the UNE-Westbrook College Campus Bookstore and the Department of English for generously sponsoring the reception.
SATURDAY, JUNE 22

Registration, UNE -Westbrook College Campus, 8:00-8:30 a.m.  Sarton Room, Maine Women Writers Collection, Library

Session IV 8:30-10 a.m.
(A) Class, Coalitions, and Caring
Chair: Janice Beal, University of New England
Betty Parker Duff, University of Maine, Orono, "The Do-Nothings and the Petticoat Mafia: Women’s Networks in the Company Towns of Millinocket and East Millinocket, Maine, and Benham and Lynch, Kentucky"
Kathleen Banks Nutter, Smith College, "Dear Mrs. Lowell, Dear Lorenza: The Cross-Class Friendship of a Boston Brahmin Woman and her Maine-born Maid in Antebellum New England"
Laura Tuennerman-Kaplan, California University of Pennsylvania, "Creating Philanthropic Communities: Connections Between Friendship and Charity"

(B) A View From Across The Atlantic: Literature and Competition
Chair: Dominica Lord-Wood, Maine College of Art
Maggie McFadden, Appalachian State University, "The Matrix of Women’s Transatlantic Friendships in the 19th Century"
Zsuzsa F. Lassu, Kodolányi Janos College (Hungary), "Female Friendship and Competition: The Hungarian Women’s Way"
Jane Silvey, Independent scholar, "It All Began with Jane Eyre": the Complex Transatlantic Web of Women Writers"

(C) Getting Into Print
Chair: Roberta Gray, University of New England
Terry Novak, Johnson & Wales University, "With a Little Help From My Friends: The Role of Women’s Friendships in the Publication of Harriet Ann Jacobs’s Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl"
Barbara Lachman, Independent Scholar, "In Two Different Voices: Letters of Abbie Huston Evans to Margaret Marshall and to Hortense Flexner"
Claire Knox, Independent Scholar, "A Literary Friendship Between Louise Bogan and May Sarton—Help or Hindrance?"

Break 10-10:30 a.m.  Library Courtyard

Session V 10:30-noon
(A) Women and Professional Networks
Chair: Stan Maloney, Emeritus, University of New England
Carol Brooks Norris, East Tennessee State University, "British-American Friendships among Nineteenth Century Women in Medicine"
Michele K. Troy, University of Hartford, "When A Room of One’s Own is Not Enough: May Sinclair’s Network of Woman Writers"
Mari A. Firkatian, University of Hartford, "Daughters and Diplomats: How to Succeed in a Man’s World"

(B) Performing Communities: Old Girl’s Networks in the Twentieth Century Theater
Chair: Brett Ashley Crawford, American University
Brett Ashley Crawford, American University, "A Web of Power: Women Producers on Broadway"
Carrie J. Cole, University of Maryland, "Continuing Women’s Community Through Time: Kate Douglas Wiggin, The Dorcas Society, and The Old Peabody Pew"
Korey Rothman, University of Maryland, "Two For the Show: Nancy Hamilton and the Broadway Sewing Circle"

(C) Working for Women’s Rights (see next page)
SATURDAY, JUNE 22

Session V 10:30-noon (continued from previous page)

(C) Working for Women's Rights

Chair: Cally Gurlay, University of New England
Andrea Constantine Hawkes, University of Maine, "Elizabeth Wilson McClintock and Elizabeth Cady Stanton: The Intimate Friendship that Sparked the First Women's Rights Convention"
Denise Kohn, Greensboro College, "Laura Curtis Bullard and Susan B. Anthony: An Uneasy Alliance to Save The Revolution"
Carol Faulkner, SUNY Geneseo, "Women's Rights and Reform During Reconstruction: The Friendship of Emma V. Brown and Emily Howland"

Lunch Noon-1:00 p.m.

Session VI 1:15-2:45 p.m.

(A) Friendship Through Letters and Material Culture

Chair: Nancy Rich, University of New England
Luise van Keuren, Green Mountain College, "Letters of Abigail Smith Adams to Mary Smith Cranch: The Territory of Women's Friendships"
Marjorie Agosin, Wellesley College, "Amigas: Letters of Friendship and Exile"
Pamela Erickson, Salt Institute, "Josephine and Marie Peary: Womanhood, Whiteness, and the Search for the North Pole"

(B) Roundtable: The Co-Construction of Knowledge in the Context of Friendships and the Classroom: A Case Study

Terri Burack, Therese Judge, Adela Licona, Erika Mueller, Shenuka Peiris, and Amy Slagell, Iowa State University

Session VII: Local Tours 3:15-5:00 p.m.
Please sign up for tours at the registration table by 5:15 Friday.

Portland Women's History Walking Trail
Guide: Polly Welts Kaufman, University of Southern Maine
A guided walking tour in downtown Portland exploring sites of importance in women’s history.
Participants will car pool to the starting point.

Evergreen Cemetery
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 Portland’s Victorian Evergreen Cemetery. Meet in front of the Art Gallery.
Book Sale and Signing
Hosted by Casco Bay Books
Friday, June 21, 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
Abplanalp Library, second floor & mezzanine

Book List

By the Keynote Speaker: Farah Jasmine Griffin


*If You Can't Be Free, Be A Mystery: In Search of Billie Holliday.* (Free Press, 2001).

Born Out of Our Previous Conferences:


From Sarah Orne Jewett and Her Contemporaries (1996)


Participants’ Books:


Erikson, Patricia. *Voices of a Thousand People: The Makah Cultural and Research Center* (Univ. of Nebraska Press, 2002).


Charlotte Perkins Gilman: *Her Progress Toward Utopia, with Selected Writings* (Syracuse University Press, 1995).


*The Journal of Hildegard of Bingen* (BellTower).

McFadden, Margaret. *Golden Cables of Sympathy: The Transatlantic Sources of Nineteenth-Century Feminism* (University of Kentucky, 1999).

David Ll. Apathy.

The Keynes hypothesis: from private opinion.

Befriend Yellow and Yellow's Three Peaks. James Clark.


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Even in the 21st century, the 45°-degree line of the Thames River.

For instance, the 45°-degree line of the Thames River.

The Complex Web of Women's Friendships
Abplanalp Library Displays
June 1st thru August 31st, 2002

With Banners Flying: Feminist Politics, Feminist Friendship
"The National Woman's Party engaged in militant and flamboyant activities utilizing publicity, stunts, marches, open-air meetings, watch fires, strikes, picketing of both the capitol and the White House, lobbying of legislators as well as the president, and calling upon women who were franchised to penalize 'the party in power' until a constitutional suffrage amendment was acquired." Handbook of American Women's History

[Large walk-in glass case across from the elevator]

"Friends as well as colleagues:" The Great Heroines of Nursing
The accomplishments of Annie Warburton Goodrich, Mary Adelaide Nutting, Lillian Wald, Isabel Hampton Robb and Lavinia Lloyd Dock "offer interesting insights into how their early rearing, education, and relationships influenced their ability to lead and to pursue what appeared to be impossible goals throughout their professional lives... As friends as well as colleagues, these women supported one another in various endeavors." [Nursing & Healthcare Perspectives 21(4): 164-7]

[Bulletin board on the lower level]

"No finer influence ever went out of Westbrook Seminary and College"
"All the members of the Westbrook faculty are interested in the problems of youth. They not only know the modern girl, but have a vast appreciation of her abilities and sympathy with her desires... A Westbrook girl finds plenty of opportunity to do all the things she likes best. She also finds occasion to learn many new accomplishments. Through work and play she increases her knowledge and widens her interests." Miss Agnes M. Safford, Principal, Westbrook Seminary, 1925-1932

[Bulletin Board in the stairwell heading to the lower level]

"Friends and 'sisters' forever:" Victorian Friendship Tokens and Traditions
"Keepsakes of friendship exchanged between women took many forms... Discovered tucked into albums, giftboxes, and attic trunks from the 19th century are cherished trifles that women gave to each other in friendship. Forgotten for more than a century, these... are artifacts of old networks of affection. Each object, however modest, is infused with the warmth of a cherished relationship... The inscription 'in sisterly affection' appears repeatedly." On Women and Friendship

[Tabletop display case in the reference area]

"[T]here is no friendship equal to that of a woman:" Selections from the Maine Women Writers Collection on the Theme of Friendship
"And, when all is said, the conclusion of one who understands the subject will be, that, for quick depth of sympathy, intuitive divination, joyous sacrifice, perfect reproduction of all the modulations of feeling, there is no friendship equal to that of a woman." The Friendships of Women, 1868.

[Display case on the upper level]
Wherein lies GREATNESS

A tour of Evergreen Cemetery takes a look at the interesting lives and accomplishments of 16 Maine women buried there.

By RAY ROUTHIER
Staff Writer

Janet Morelli was doing some Civil War research in Evergreen Cemetery when she came upon a headstone for Janet Boyd Merrill that read “Pioneer fighter of Polio.”

From her research, Morelli already knew there were several Civil War nurses buried in Evergreen, on Stevens Avenue in Portland. But Merrill’s headstone made her wonder if there were more women buried there whose stories might be compelling or interesting to students of local history.

There were. Enough so that Morelli put together an informative tour called “Notable Women at Evergreen Cemetery.” Morelli takes people on a 90-minute tour of 16 graves of important and fascinating women, from Harriet Eaton, who served as a nurse on the front lines of the Civil War, to Mary Rines Thompson, who ran Maine television stations in the 1970s.

Morelli will conduct her “Notable Women” tour on Monday, Memorial Day, beginning at 11 a.m. It’s free and begins at the Wilde Chapel, 672 Stevens Ave.

It’s really amazing how fascinating these women’s lives were,” said Morelli, who is president of The Friends of Evergreen, a group that helps preserve the park-like cemetery.

The tour of notable women is just one of the tours Morelli conducts – on Memorial Day each year and at other times by arrangement. She also gives tours of the graves of Civil War veterans and local industrialists, for instance.

The notable women tour begins with the grave of Mildred Giddings Burrage, a celebrated artist and historic preservationist who was born in Portland in 1890 and died...
TOUR
Continued from Page 1B

in 1983. Not far from Burrage's grave site, on the tour, is the burial place of Mehstabell Cummings Baxter, second wife of noted Portland Mayor James Phinney Baxter and mother of Maine Gov. Percival Baxter. She died in 1914, at age 77.

Other women on the tour with well-known names include: Phyllis Schuyler Thaxter, a Broadway actress in the 1930s for whom the Portland Players' theater is named; Margaret Jane Mussey Sweat, a writer who died in 1908 and who left her house and $100,000 for the establishment of a museum building for the Portland Museum of Art; and Olive Ring Merrill Morse, original owner of Portland's Victoria Mansion.

When asked to name some of the women on the tour she finds particularly interesting, Morelli named Gladys Doten Chapman, who formed the Maine chapter of the College Equal Suffrage League in 1913 and fought tirelessly in the effort to get women the right to vote.

"She was a retiring, proper lady, but she overcame her timidity to speak on behalf of this cause," said Morelli. "And at that time, that was a very unpopular cause."

Morelli also mentioned Hilda Libby Ives, an internationally known theologian who was born in Portland in 1866. She was a young widow with four children when she decided she wanted to help others, so she became a Congregational minister and obtained her doctor of divinity degree from Bowdoin College. She spent 12 years as a pastor in rural Maine towns and was involved in her denomination's national and international affairs.

"She was this single mom who decided to become a minister, and there are all these interesting stories about her," Morelli said. "All these women are interesting."

Staff Writer Ray Routhier can be contacted at 781-6454 or at rrouthier@pressherald.com
Maine Women Writers Collection
Abplanalp Library
Westbrook College Campus, University of New England

Founded in 1959 by Grace Dow and Dorothy Healy to honor, preserve, and make available the writings of Maine women achieving literary recognition, the Collection now has over 4,000 volumes on more than 500 Maine women writers. The collection also includes correspondence, photographs, personal papers, manuscripts, typescripts, artifacts, and audiorecordings that provide insight into the lives and writing of both well-known and obscure Maine women authors. The Maine Women Writers Collection was dedicated as a National Literary Landmark on June 20, 1998, by the Friends of Libraries USA.

The Maine Women Writers Collection facility renovation took place from 1998-2000. Highlights of the include: a redesigned and expanded Maine Women Writers Collection Wing with closed book stacks; a quiet reading room for research; a preservation work area; and an elegant public area for lectures and quiet reading. Dispersion of multiple data jacks enables access with personal laptops for research purposes. A heating, cooling and ventilation system that meets archival standards for preservation was installed throughout the facility, as well as a state-of-the-art high pressure misting fire suppression system.

The Maine Women Writers Collection welcomes researchers at all study levels. Our patrons range from elementary school students to post-doctoral researchers. The curator will provide reference and research assistance to researchers desiring to use the Maine Woman Writers Collection for personal study or scholarly pursuit. Comfortable facilities for study and research are available, and photocopying is available for a fee.

Research in the reading room is arranged by appointment. Researchers should e-mail, write, or telephone ahead to make an appointment and communicate their specific research needs.

Please contact the curator directly:

Cally Gurley, Curator, Maine Women Writers Collection
University of New England, Westbrook College Campus
716 Stevens Avenue, Portland ME 04103
phone: (207) 797-7688 x4324
e-mail: cgurley@une.edu

Questions on scholarship and pedagogical initiatives may also be addressed to the MWWC
Faculty Director:

Professor Jennifer Tuttle
Department of English, University of New England
11 Hills Beach Road, Biddeford, ME 04005
phone: (207) 283-0171 x2709
e-mail: jtuttle@une.edu
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Heather Payson Hamlin

Sherrill Redmon

Sonia Sanchez

Jane Weinberger
A guided tour of a portion of the trail —
Saturday — 3:15 p.m.
Sign up on Friday at Conference Headquarters

A WOMEN'S HISTORY WALKING TRAIL IN PORTLAND, MAINE

**DIRECTIONS**

*At the end, take the path on the left to Mountfort St.

**ABYSSINIAN CHURCH**

75 Newbury Street

African Americans built the Abyssinian Church in 1818 in response to their treatment in Portland's church, which only represented 1 percent of the city.
The Complex Web of Women's Friendships
June 20-22, 2002
Westbrook College Campus, University of New England

Conference Evaluation

Please take a few minutes to complete this evaluation form to help us plan and improve future conferences. You may turn in your completed form to the box at the registration area in the Abplanalp Library, or give it to any committee member. Thank you for your comments.

1. I attended (check one): □ Entire conference  □ Friday only  □ Saturday only

2. How did you hear about the conference?
   □ Web site  □ Direct mailing  □ Poster  □ H-net or other Internet posting
   □ Professional journal or newsletter  □ Word of mouth  Other __________________________

3. How would you rate the quality of the paper presentations?
   □ Excellent  □ Good  □ Average  □ Fair  □ Poor
   Please list any paper presentations (or panels) you especially enjoyed, or disliked, and comment briefly on your reactions.

4. How would you rate the effectiveness of the panel chairs in hosting the presentations and facilitating the post-presentation discussion?
   □ Excellent  □ Good  □ Average  □ Fair  □ Poor

5. The amount of time allotted for post-presentation discussion and questions was:
   □ Too much  □ Adequate  □ Too little

6. How would you rate the keynote speech by Farah Jasmine Griffin?
   □ Excellent  □ Good  □ Average  □ Fair  □ Poor
   (over)
7. Please list any additional comments or paper presentations or keynote speech.

8. How would you rate the lunch food?

☐ Excellent  ☐ Good  ☐ Average  ☐ Fair  ☐ Poor

9. If you attended the receptions, how would you rate them?

   Opening night, Holiday Inn:  ☐ Excellent  ☐ Good  ☐ Average  ☐ Fair  ☐ Poor
   Book Signing:  ☐ Excellent  ☐ Good  ☐ Average  ☐ Fair  ☐ Poor

10. How would you rate the campus facilities in which sessions were held?

    ☐ Excellent  ☐ Good  ☐ Average  ☐ Fair  ☐ Poor

11. How would you rate the hotel accommodations (Holiday Inn)?

    ☐ Excellent  ☐ Good  ☐ Average  ☐ Fair  ☐ Poor

12. How would you rate the shuttle service?

    ☐ Excellent  ☐ Good  ☐ Average  ☐ Fair  ☐ Poor

13. How would you compare this to other conferences you have attended?

    ☐ Superior in quality  ☐ Comparable quality  ☐ Generally poorer quality

14. Please use the space below to elaborate on your responses to questions 8-13, if desired. Also, are there any things you would change about the conference? Any further comments?
Maine Women Writers Collection
Research Support Grant Program, 2002-3

The Maine Women Writers Collection at the University of New England solicits applications for the Maine Women Writers Collection Research Support Grant Program. These grants are intended for faculty members, independent researchers, and graduate students at the dissertation stage who are actively pursuing research that requires or would benefit from access to the holdings of the Maine Women Writers Collection.

MWCC Research Support Grants will range between $250 and $1000, and may be used for transportation, housing, and research-related expenses.

Applications should include the following:

- A 1-page cover sheet with name, address including e-mail and telephone number, present status and institutional affiliation (if any), working title of project, amount of time you would like to spend at the MWCC (minimum one week), a list of financial support you have received for this project, and a proposed budget (not to exceed $1000).

- A 1-page description of your project. Successful applicants will demonstrate their project's high relevance to the unique holdings of the MWCC (specifying which holdings you expect to use) as well as the project's significance to your field of study.

- A curriculum vitae of no more than 3 pages.

- Graduate students should also arrange to have a letter of reference sent directly to the MWCC. This letter should speak to the applicant's scholarly experience, ability, and promise.

**Deadline for receipt of applications: November 4, 2002**

Please send applications to: Cally Gurley
Curator, Maine Women Writers Collection
University of New England
716 Stevens Avenue
Portland, Maine 04103-2670

Questions may be directed to Cally Gurley at (207) 797-7688, ext. 4324 or cgurley@une.edu, or to Jennifer Tuttle, Department of English, UNE, at (207) 283-0171, ext. 2709 or jtuttle@une.edu.

Applications will be reviewed by an interdisciplinary panel of staff from the MWCC and faculty from the University of New England.

Recipients will be asked to give an informal brown bag talk on their research-in-progress to staff, faculty and students; they also will be expected to contribute to the MWCC a copy of any publications resulting from research in the Collection.
2001-2 MWWC Research Support Grant Recipients

Patricia Pierce Erikson, Salt Institute for Documentary Studies

"Women Authoring Space in the ‘Public Sphere’ of Discovery"

Rose Marasco, University of Southern Maine

"Margaret Jane Mussey Sweat, 1823-1908"

The Maine Women Writers Collection, Abplanalp Library, Westbrook College Campus of the University of New England, is a pre-eminent special collection of published and non-published literary, cultural and social history sources, by and about women authors, either native or residents of Maine. These sources document and illustrate the times, circumstances and experiences of Maine women writers.

Founded in 1959 by Grace Dow and Dorothy Healy to honor, preserve, and make available the writings of Maine women achieving literary recognition, the Collection now has over 4,000 volumes on more than 500 Maine women writers. The collection also includes correspondence, photographs, personal papers, manuscripts, typescripts, artifacts, and audiorecordings that provide insight into the lives and writing of both well-known and obscure Maine women authors. The Maine Women Writers Collection was dedicated as a national Literary Landmark on June 20, 1998, by the Friends of Libraries USA. For more information about the Collection, including the catalog and finding aid, please see the MWWC website: http://www.une.edu/admin/lit/mwwc/.