

WID *Information*

**Office of Women in International Development
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OUR FIRST DECADE

The end of this school year marks the close of the first decade of existence for the Office, and provides a good vantage point for reflection on both our history and our future. When an interdisciplinary faculty committee established the Office in 1980, issues of women and development were seen as marginal, if they were seen at all, both within the research community and the international public policy community. Indeed, the first widely distributed policy document was entitled Invisible Women (World Bank, 1980). When third world women were portrayed in the literature, it was most often as powerless and pathetic victims of colonialism, patriarchy, and/or development. Arguments for attention to their needs were cast almost exclusively in equity terms. The United Nations Decade for Women was at its mid-point, but the profound changes in the situation of women that it marked were not yet clearly visible to any of us. Existing data was scattered and inadequate; much necessary data simply did not exist.

A decade later, gender issues are seen as an integral part of social science analysis, and international development agencies more and more routinely attend to women for efficiency reasons, acknowledging them as active agents who influence the relative success and failure of national programs and policies. The data base which undergirds such understandings has been created by a small but rapidly growing band of feminist scholars within universities, national governments, donor agencies and United Nations institutions. Internationally comparative gender-disaggregated data from more than a hundred countries on life expectancy, education, labor force participation, health and fertility are now easily accessible on computer as well as in the yearly World Development Reports of the World Bank and UNDP published by Oxford University Press. Smaller studies are increasing in geometric progression all over the world and threaten to outrun our ability to absorb them.

The earlier notion that women's issues were a product of western feminism has been laid to rest by the emergence of grassroots women's organizations in Latin America, India, and Kenya, as well as of women's studies communities in Asia, Latin America, and most recently, in Africa and eastern Europe. International networks of researchers, practitioners, and policy people actively engage with issues ranging from agriculture and credit to health and domestic violence.

This history of the past decade is truly remarkable, and the university is fortunate that the foresight of the faculty committee in 1980 has permitted UIUC to be an active participant in this process. Supported by a combination of institutional resources and outside funding, UIUC/WID has been able to execute collaborative research with institutions in the Caribbean and India, and to engage in a series of faculty exchanges which produced three international workshops. These workshops have included researchers, practitioners, and grassroots organizers from more than thirty countries, as well as technical experts from two UN agencies.

Our five-year collaboration with MS University-Baroda, focusing on the improvement of household level research on women has given us strong links into the Indian women's studies community, and a chance for very productive faculty dialogue. It has also produced a jointly written and edited book on household level research, which is to be published by Sage in 1992. As noted in News of the International Associates, it has contributed to the establishment of a Center for Research on Women at MSUB.

Our own program has gradually become more securely institutionalized; as of next fall the (admittedly modest) core budget of the Office will be entirely on recurring funds, which means that we're here to stay. Not only that, but we are moving into a suite of very attractive corner offices on the third floor of the new International Studies Building, and we will participate with the other international centers in a series of seminars and colloquia celebrating the new environment. (Phones will remain the same, the new address as of August is noted on the back of the newsletter.)

The proposal for a UIUC Center for Research and Teaching on Women is still alive and moving, although it's progress has been slowed by the current budget crisis. The center proposal has benefited greatly from a series of joint meetings of the WID and Women's Studies executive committees, first to dream, and then to review and revise the actual proposal until there was a high degree of consensus on the nature and functions of the proposed center. This revised proposal has been resubmitted to the Vice Chancellor, through both the Director of International Programs and the Dean of Liberal Arts, and we anticipate a meeting in early June to decide on next steps. In the meantime, we have been able to interview for new appointments in Women's Studies as promised in last year's meetings.

Another office activity with increasing importance for the future is the education of the next generation of scholars and policy makers. In the early 1980s, the Office, with a three-year grant from the US Office of Education, established an interdisciplinary graduate concentration (minor) in Gender Roles and International Development (GRID). As part of this effort, a number of modules were developed to support the inclusion of international gender issues in on-going courses. These materials were also widely distributed internationally. The concentration itself has been operative for four years and has proved most successful. By May 1991, eleven students will have completed the program at the master's level, and one at the doctoral level. Four more students have declared the concentration at the doctoral level and are presently working on their degrees. Students have included both women and men, North American, European, Asian, African and Latin

American students from departments including both agricultural and consumer economics, educational policy and agricultural communication, geography, history, human development, journalism, political science, and sociology.

A particularly outstanding group of African women doctoral students are moving through the program; in the past three years among the five of them they have won two Margaret McNamara Fellowships, two AAUW International Fellowships, one Rockefeller Foundation African Dissertation Internship, three fellowships for the Wisconsin Summer Institute for African Agricultural Research, one MUCIA dissertation research fellowship, one ICRW West African policy fellowship, and other assorted awards. Only one has financial support through her own government at the doctoral level; the others are essentially supporting their own graduate studies, often with great difficulty. This is a problem that the Office intends to address more pro-actively, and we would appreciate your input.

Over the next decade we foresee an intensification of international collaboration both through the universities, and through international agencies. The Office is well placed to participate; we have international visibility through our workshops and our publication, and increasingly, our graduates are taking up positions of responsibility in a variety of settings. Our current research on the scope and impact of gender training in policy institutions places the Office squarely in the middle of this rapidly evolving field. Under funding from UNIFEM we are collecting training materials and analyzing institutional strategies for integrating the new knowledge of gender into the practice of a variety of development-related institutions. Following the Bergen Conference in May, we should have a better sense of the future implications of this work.

The almost unimaginable worldwide changes in understanding of women's roles during our first decade give us confidence in the future of the field, and of the Office. We look forward to the Twenty-First Century, which many predict will be the Women's Century.

Kathleen Cloud

ANNUAL STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION

The Office of Women in International Development announces its **Ninth Annual Student Paper Competition**, with an award of \$150 for the winning paper. The competition is open to both graduate and undergraduate students, and papers from all disciplines are welcome. Papers should focus on gender issues in the context of international development and should be typewritten, double-spaced, and prepared in a journal format acceptable to the student's major discipline. **Submission deadline is May 14, 1991.** For additional information, contact Cherub Antwi-Nsiah, 244-1722, or the WID office, 333-1994.

TRAINING/WORKSHOPS/CONFERENCES ON CAMPUS

Improving Organization and Management: A Short Course for Extension Administrators will be offered by INTERPAKS from September 3 to October 9, 1991. It will be organized around six modules and will focus on common problems faced by extension administrators. A problem-solving methodology will be used, concentrating on case study materials, the experiences of the participants, and field trips using analytical techniques to seek solutions to problems. The primary modules to be covered will be:

- *Analyzing Extension Systems to Improve Performance
- *Improving Program Development, Delivery and Impact
- *Organizing and Managing Extension Resources
- *Improving Your Leadership and Management Skills
- *Using Computers to Improve Extension Management
- *Targeting Extension Programs to Special Groups which will include using gender analysis to improve extension programs for rural women.

Participants must arrange their own financial support. Sponsors for previous INTERPAKS short courses have included employers, governments, and international agencies, such as the World Bank, IFAD, the Asian Development Bank and other regional development banks, FAO, UNDP, USAID and various foundations.

To be accepted, INTERPAKS must receive a completed application and payment or financial confirmation from a sponsoring organization by **July 15, 1991**. For more information, contact Pamela Woodward, INTERPAKS, University of Illinois, 113 Mumford Hall, 1301 West Gregory Drive, Urbana, IL 61801, USA, TELEX: 206957, Cable: INTSOY, Tel: 217-333-5834, FAX: 217-333-5838, Bitnet: INTAGR@UIUCVMD, Dialcom e-mail: 57:AGS770

Intensive Foreign Language Intersession Program (IFLIP '91) is sponsored by the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, for faculty, staff, and their dependents. It is intended to prepare participants for travel abroad or for research requiring a foreign language. IFLIP is free to all participants. Languages offered include: ARABIC (beginning), CHINESE (beginning), FRENCH (beginning, intermediate, and advanced), GERMAN (beginning, intermediate, and advanced), ITALIAN (beginning, intermediate), JAPANESE (beginning), RUSSIAN (beginning, intermediate), SPANISH (beginning, intermediate, and advanced). These non-credit courses will meet daily Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm May 13 through 31, 1991 (with the exception of Monday, May 27, Memorial Day). Class size is limited to 25 participants per class and enrollment is on a first-come, first-served basis. The deadline for registration is April 26, 1991. For application forms and information, contact Cathy Justice, Overseas Projects and Foreign Visitors, 307 Coble Hall, University of Illinois, Champaign, IL, 333-1990.

The Eleventh Annual Meeting of the International Association for Impact Assessment entitled Technology and Environmental Responsibility: A New Age for Impact Assessment will be held at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, USA, Krannert Center, June 7 - 11, 1991. For more information, contact Prof. Rabel Burdge, Institute for Environmental Studies, 1101 W. Peabody, Rm. 352, Urbana, IL 61801, Tel: 217-333-4178, FAX: 217-333-8046.

TRAINING/WORKSHOPS/CONFERENCES - INTERNATIONAL

An International Conference on Women and Biodiversity will be held October 4-6, 1991 at the **Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University**. Rural women in tropical rainforest regions have a profound effect on their local environment through such actions as collecting fuelwood, clearing forest for agriculture, and gathering non-timber forest products. These day-to-day actions have a widely recognized effect on their local environment. Over time, women develop extensive knowledge of the local resources, extraction potential and management. However, funding agencies traditionally bypass women in development efforts and instead approach men, the customary owners of land. Because these women are both the primary holders of knowledge and the primary agents of transformation, they remain an untapped resource for the conservation of biodiversity. It is critical that the often silent part women play in the conservation and use of biological diversity be recognized and acted upon. The topics to be addressed during the conference are: 1) the relation of women to natural resources - agriculture, fuelwood/energy and sustainable extraction; 2) constraints and problems - institutional, legal, economic, cultural, women's access to leadership roles, women's access to tenure of land and credit; 3) employment of recommendations - by funding agencies, governmental institutions and NGO's. For more information, contact Lea Borkenhagen, c/o World Resources Institute, 1709 New York Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20006, Tel: 202-662-2534, FAX: 202-638-0036.

The First International Conference on Women in Africa and the African Diaspora: Bridges Across Activism and the Academy will be held in **Nigeria, West Africa in June 1992**. Papers and activities will reflect every discipline in the academy as well as the contributions of practitioners and activists outside the academy. This will be an opportunity for researchers and activists inside and outside Africa to discuss mutual/collective interests and plan collaborative work. The response to the conference has been extremely enthusiastic. For more information, contact Organizing Committee, Women in Africa and the African Diaspora, c/o Professor Obioma Nnaemeka, Department of French, The College of Wooster, Wooster, Ohio 44691, USA.

A new **Certificate Program in Gender, Resource Management, and Development** is being offered by the Program for International Development and Social Change at **Clark University** from August 20 to December 20, 1991. The four-month course is designed for mid-career development professionals wishing to deepen their understanding of gender as a variable in Third World livelihood systems and to acquire skills in gender analysis for incorporating this perspective into their organization's policies, programs, and projects. Completion of the program earns participants a certificate as well as four graduate course credits which can be applied toward Clark's MA in International Development. For more information, contact Barbara P. Thomas-Slayer, Associate Professor/Director, International Development Program, Clark University, 950 Main St., Worcester, MA 01610-1477. Tel: 508-793-7201, FAX: 508-793-8820.

The Women and Development Training Programme at the **Royal Tropical Institute in Amsterdam** is organizing two international courses to be conducted in English. **Training Programme: Women and Enterprise Development** will be held October 14-18, 1991. **Basic Training Course on Gender: Project Implementation** will be held November 3-15, 1991. Application deadline is August 15, 1991. For more information, contact A. M. Appel, Project Leader, Women & Development Programme,

Department of Education & Training, Royal Tropical Institute, 63 Mauritskade, 1092 AD Amsterdam, The Netherlands, Tel: (20) 5688711, FAX: (20) 6684579, TELEX: 15080 KIT NL, TELEGRAM: INTROPEN.

International Conference on Social Work and the Future in Developing Countries will be held in **Cairo, Egypt, January 19-27, 1992**. The conference is organized by the Higher Institute of Social Work in Cairo and will take place in three historically famous places: Cairo, Luxor, and Aswan. For more information, contact Conference Headquarters, The Higher Institute of Social Work, 4, El Sherifa St. Kolaly, Cairo, Egypt, Tel: 002-02-779155, FAX: 00202-749800.

PUBLICATIONS

Coping with Social Change: Programs That Work, Proceedings of the June 1989 Conference in Acapulco, Mexico, edited by Irene Hoskins is one of the few publications available on the impact of social change on midlife and older women in Latin America and the Caribbean. It consists of 178 pages, in both English and Spanish in a single volume, and features such programs and issues as population aging, social security, informal economic sectors, empowerment, transferring programs cross-nationally, anthropological views, health promotion and community care, shelter, income generation, and new volunteer roles. **Empowering Older Women: Cross-Cultural Views**, edited by Elsa M. Chaney is a 72-page booklet which includes guidelines for discussion leaders, demographic statistics on aging in the Third World, and an extensive list of resources and bibliography -- resources needed by women's and seniors' groups, health and social service professionals, teachers, and others who may wish to sponsor an empowerment series or course module. Topics include intergenerational alliances, networking, action strategies, educating our daughters, cultural meanings of aging, dilemmas of growing older, the importance of family, and building coalitions. Single copies of both of these publications are available free upon request to American Association of Retired Persons, 1909 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20049.

Newly available from the International Center for Research on Women and the Population Council are two reports: "Notes from the Seminar Series: The Determinants and Consequences of Female-Headed Households," compiled and edited by Lisa A. McGowan. \$13.00. Between December 1988 and November 1989, the Population Council and the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) held four seminars as part of a jointly-sponsored series funded by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities. Topics discussed include concepts and classifications of female-headed households: implications and applications for national statistics; consequences of female-headship and female maintenance, determinants of households headed or maintained by women; considerations of the lifecycle; and family structure, female headship and poverty in developing countries: issues for the 1990s.

Also produced under this program is "Mothers on Their Own: Policy Issues for Developing Countries," by Nancy Folbre. \$5.50. This report provides a general overview of the interplay among economic development, household structure, family law and social policy. It explores three separate but related questions: 1) How is "headship" conceptualized and measured? 2) What determines the incidence of female headship and the percentage of families maintained by women alone across

countries and over time? 3) What are the economic consequences, for women and children in particular? These two reports are available by contacting: Program Assistant, ICRW, 1717 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Suite 302, Washington, DC 20036, Tel: 202-797-0007, Cable: INTERCENT, FAX: 202-797-0020.

A new publication is available from the Women in Agricultural Development Program at the University of Florida entitled **A Bibliography of Women in Agricultural Development with Special Reference to the Third World**. It lists over 3,000 publications dealing with the women in agriculture and development throughout the world. Each entry is referenced by geographic region, country and five descriptive key words. It is available in two forms: 1) spiral bound 250 pp. softcover, \$9.95 plus postage/handling and 2) computerized data files compatible with PC File Plus (tm), 3 1/2" or 5 1/4" diskettes in compiled ASCII or D-base format, \$30.00/set US Airmail, \$40.00/set Overseas Airmail. For more information, contact IFAS Information, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611, USA.

NEWS OF CAMPUS ASSOCIATES

Sam and Jane Johnson, who are not only WID Office Associates but also the driving force in last summer's successful workshop on the use of microcomputers for public policy on women, are leaving the University of Illinois in June. They will join the staff of CID, the consortium of eleven western land grant universities doing international development work. We shall miss them greatly. We wish them every success in their new work. As of June 10, their new address will be: CID Executive Office, 6367 E. Tanguo Verde, Suite 200, Tucson, AZ 85715-3832, Tel: (602) 885-0055.

Cherub Antwi-Nsiah has successfully defended and completed her doctoral dissertation on "Analysis of the Problem of Gender, Class and Regional Inequalities in Peripheral States: A Case Study of Ghana." The Assistant Director of the WID office is now Dr. Antwi-Nsiah.

Patricia Jabu Musi has been awarded a grant to complete her dissertation research on household livelihood strategies in Swaziland from the Midwest Universities Consortium for International Activities (MUCIA) in the PhD Dissertation Research Grants Competition. Patricia's proposal was selected out of a total of 80 applicants representing all eight of the MUCIA member institutions. Patricia also received a fellowship for the African dissertation research summer workshop at the University of Wisconsin sponsored by the Rockefeller Foundation.

NEWS OF INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATES

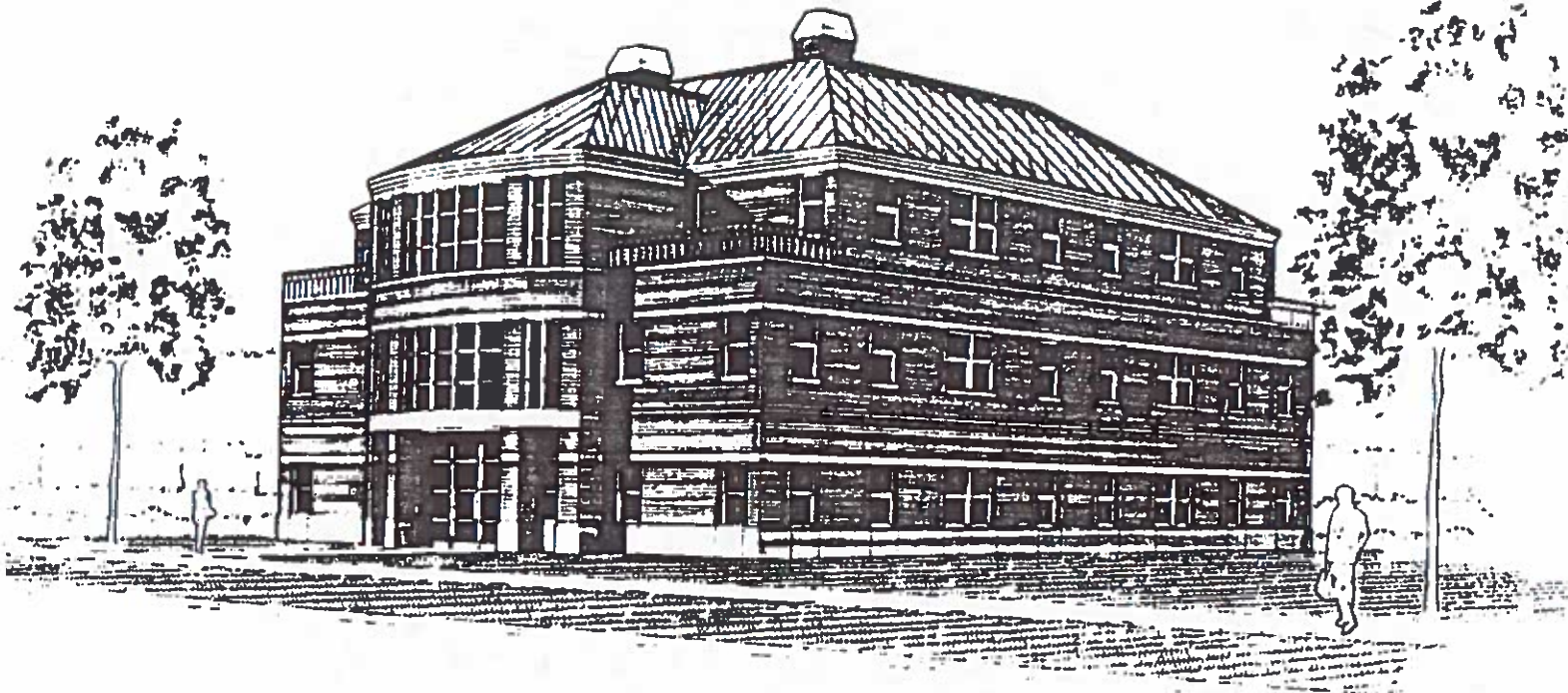
At the direction of the WID Executive Committee, we have invited the international alumni of both the UIUC degree programs and our workshops on women and development to become Office Associates. You will note that in the new Associates Directory 1991 we now list International Associates. We expect this group to increase over time.

From M.S. University of Baroda, India: The Women's Studies Research Centre (WSRC), the first interdisciplinary Centre of Gujarat, was formally inaugurated on November 18, 1990 and has started functioning from July 1990. The objectives of the Centre are to promote teaching, training, research and extension work in the field of Women's Studies and Development through an interdisciplinary approach. It has already developed a comprehensive library/documentation centre consisting of approximately 500 books and 50 journals, it subscribes to 25 magazines and journals related to women, and it has an audio-video unit having material related to women and development.

A study of the "Girl Child and the Family" is to be undertaken as a major research activity of the Women's Studies Research Centre as a collaborative, action-oriented project with 22 other centres in the various universities of India. The objectives of the project will be to generate comparable data on some common parameters about the situation of the girl child, to identify the major problems, to initiate actions, and to empower the community, particularly the women, to pursue desirable alternatives.

A multicentric research project entitled "Women's Productive Roles and Child Survival and Development", funded by the Ford Foundation (India) is being directed by Prof. Kamala Srinivasan. Five other institutions involved in the research network are Operational Research Group, Baroda; National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad; Institute of Rural Health Studies, Hyderabad; Institute of Social Studies Trust, Bangalore; and Council of Social Development, New Delhi. Both anthropological and survey techniques, i.e. qualitative and quantitative approaches are being used. The census part of the survey has been analyzed and the findings give a very disquieting picture pertaining to women's status, i.e. mortality rates, literacy levels, and the nature of occupation.

OUR NEW BUILDING



PLEASE NOTE: As of August 1991, our new address will be 910 South Fifth Street, Room 303, International Studies Building, University of Illinois, Champaign, Illinois, 61820, USA, Tel: 217-333-1977 and 333-1994.

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