

It wasn't a fad.

In 1972 a women's studies program was established at the University, and over its 15 years of existence the program has encountered perennially low budgets, insufficient faculty, a precipitous drop in enrollments at one point, changes in program goals — almost any academic obstacle that could occur.

But it survived. And two of program's original coordinators are as optimistic about the future of the program as they were 15 years ago.

"My own personal goal," says program director Irene H. Frieze, "is that we have a graduate program 15 years from *now*."

Fifteen years ago, Frieze, Maurine Greenwald and Mary L. Briscoe were named coordinators of the new program. Frieze was in the psychology department, Greenwald was a history instructor and Briscoe was in the English department. They were newly hired, and all held joint appointments in women's studies.

Frieze and Greenwald still do; and Briscoe also remains at Pitt — as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

During a recent interview, Frieze and Greenwald talked about the changes that have occurred since the program's birth during the 1972-73 academic year.

While a graduate program may have been fleetingly thought of in the early years, the women faculty were too busy just establishing courses. Frieze said the early focus was on the undergraduate program, with a goal being to get one course in every discipline.

There were five courses offered in women's studies in the fall of 1972; within a year, the offerings increased to 20 courses.

Greenwald explained that the focus of these original women's studies courses was on the contributions that women made to the areas being discussed.

Frieze said her early "Psychology of Women" course looked at how gender made a difference in studying certain areas, such as power, achievement, the development of sex roles.

# Women's studies pioneers reflect on 15 years of progress here



Irene Frieze, left, and Maurine Greenwald, two of the original coordinators of women's studies here, reflect on the progress the program has made.

The course now is called "Psychology of Gender."

Greenwald explained, "There now is a greater effort to talk more equally about women's and men's experiences, and to more systematically compare and contrast them."

Also in the early years, women's studies scholars were spending a lot of their time documenting cases of wage and job discrimination in an attempt to demonstrate that females were experiencing problems in society.

Greenwald gave an example for her field — labor history. Twenty years ago, women's studies scholars were documenting that women were stewardesses, but not pilots; nurses, but not doctors. In other words, that the American labor force was "gender segregated."

Today, documenting gender segregation is "old hat"; now the interest is in understanding the origins of this labor phenomenon and why it continues to be reproduced in American society.

"In 1972, I was much more concerned with documenting the biases in the field and documenting ways in which we could talk about women," Greenwald said. "Now my concern is much more focused on why these patterns exist."

In psychology, Frieze explained, the first women's studies students were discussing the barriers to women achieving; today's students are talking about problems associated with achieving — dual-career families, child care.

While women have been achieving more over the past 15 to 20 years, the field of women's studies scholarship, too, has seen some significant achievements. Greenwald and Frieze believe this scholarship is responsible for the integration of women, and their achievements and roles, into the mainstream of most disciplines.

"Women cannot be avoided anymore," Greenwald believes. Because of women's studies scholarship and the arrival of more women in academia, male scholars cannot avoid what Greenwald calls an obligation to include gender in their studies. "Twenty years ago they didn't feel any obligation to ask about women's experiences."

The women's studies program at Pitt has had its own successes, too. In 1972

## State bill to require publication

# of information on campus crime

Pennsylvania universities, including Pitt, will have to start giving students and employees information about campus crime and security policies in order to increase campus safety awareness.

Last month the state Senate passed and Gov. Casey signed a bill requiring state institutions of higher learning to provide the required safety information by December to current students and employees as well as to prospective students and employees upon request.

When a student applies for admission or a person is newly employed, the university or college will have to notify the applicant or new employee of the availability of such information, which will also be provided on an annual basis to current students and employees.

According to Dennis P. McManus, assistant vice president and director of Commonwealth Relations, the annual distribution of information could be done through a variety of means, depending on the availability of funds. McManus said that

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## New sterilizing agent developed

Researchers in the pharmacy school, working under an agreement with the Scopas Technology Co., have developed a new way to sterilize medical products.

The new method uses chlorine dioxide gas, which has none of the drawbacks of the traditional sterilant, ethylene oxide. Ethylene oxide is carcinogenic and often stabilized with chlorofluorocarbons, which are harmful to the ozone layer.

Scientists at Scopas originated the new technology, but lacked the laboratory facilities to conduct the necessary research. Scopas contacted Pitt's Foundation for Applied Science and Technology. Through FAST, Scopas was linked up with Joseph E. Knapp of pharmaceutical sciences, who worked closely with the company.

if given the necessary funding by the state, Pitt would be able to distribute the required information through a detailed pamphlet or handbook. Without the additional funding, however, the information may be given out in something as simple as a campus memo.

In addition to crime statistics, the schools must disseminate the following information: the number of undergraduate and graduate students enrolled and the number of those students living in student housing; the administrative office responsible for security on the campus; the policy on reporting criminal incidents to state and local police; any policy regarding the possession, use and sale of alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs; a policy regarding students or employees with criminal records.

The original bill, which was introduced in the state House last October, initially addressed only students, McManus explained. He added that the bill was revised to include employees since they, too, are a part of the campus and have just as much right to be made aware of campus safety.

Also in the revision of the bill, officially known as the "College and University Security Information Act," the power to enforce the rules and regulations switched from the state attorney general to the state Board of Education because institutions of higher education are governed by the board, McManus explained.

The forces behind this bill were the parents of a Lehigh University student who in 1986 was killed in her dorm room by another student. Connie and Howard Clery, the slain student's parents, campaigned for strict laws forcing colleges and universities to inform prospective students about campus crime rates before they formally enrolled.

Supporters describe the bill as a major step toward improving campus safety through increasing awareness of potential criminal problems. McManus said that not only will the bill increase awareness of both students and employees but will also allow

for "truth in advertising." He added, "The bill is a good piece of legislation which could result in positive coverage for Pitt because of the low crime rates on campus."

—Deira Akiyama

## New effort to recruit minorities explained

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arguing that certain courses are necessary in order for an employee to perform his or her job, and thus the waived tuition money should remain tax-exempt.

It was further reported at Greensburg that Pitt stands to pay "millions of dollars more each year" in taxes to maintain its current employee pension plan under the new laws, according to Chesler.

"To preserve the pension plan we now have, we would need to have an employee participation rate of at least 75 percent, and we don't have it," Chesler said. Only 76 percent of faculty and less than 50 percent of Pitt staff are enrolled in the TIAA-CREF or Vanguard retirement annuity plans.

Pitt's faculty early retirement plan and employee life and health insurance plans also may have to be changed to conform to the tax reform act, Chesler said.

Edison Montgomery, of President Wesley Posvar's office, told Faculty Assembly members that the University's group life insurance premiums will probably begin to increase in 1994 when, by federal law, mandatory retirement ages for faculty are eliminated. (Effective last year, staff no longer have to retire at age 70.)

During the panel discussion on "Faculty Renewal," Stanley Imber of the Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic gave a report on "job burnout" — a problem, President Posvar said in an interview this week,

only Hesse, Greenwald and Briscoe had joint appointments to teach women's studies courses. Today, there are 13 core faculty who are teaching 74 courses to 1,500 students. The program offers a certificate in women's studies, a self-designed major or elective courses, and on the graduate level students can minor in women's studies or take elective courses.

—Debra Meyer

that is "no more prevalent among faculty than it is among any other group of high achievers working under stress."

Unlike previous summer conferences of University leaders at Greensburg and the Johnstown campus, this year's meeting did not feature more than one panel discussion at any one time. "So it wasn't possible for someone to sit around in his room and say later that he'd been at one of the other discussions," said an administrator who attended last week's conference. "Let's face it," added the administrator, who asked not to be identified, "a few people who attended the (previous) conferences in Johnstown spent an awful lot of time out on the tennis courts."

"The biggest value of a conference like this," Posvar noted, "is the opportunity it provides for interpersonal communication among the people present."

While deans in the Provost Area meet two or three times per year, as do the Health Science deans, "This larger group of 100 upper level administrators meets only about once each year," Posvar said. (The Johnstown conferences, held from 1981 to 1986, were attended by 150-180 University representatives.)

"Every year, we say this is not an annual event," Posvar said, smiling. But he added that it's "very likely" a summer conference for Pitt administrators will be held in 1989.

-- Bruce Steele