

Women's studies marks 20 years

By Christine Hanna
News Assistant

Pitt's Women's Studies Program is celebrating 20 years of helping to give students a more rounded education in terms of accomplishments by women.

Through the program, established in 1972, undergraduate students can obtain a Women's Studies Certificate with an undergraduate degree, self-design a major through liberal studies or take women's studies courses to meet the education requirements.

A minimum of 18 credits of WSP courses and a cumulative 2.00 QPA in those courses are required to receive a certificate. WSP Director Susan Hansen said that at the present time there are 70 people in the various stages of the certificate program.

Hansen said the program does not offer a major because it is not a disciplinary department. WSP is also not in the position to act like other departments in regard to tenure. The professors who teach WSP courses already have a home in other departments. Hansen is a political science professor.

"On the whole, we rely for the cross-listed program on contributions from [Pitt's] departments. They have been more than supportive," she said.

But Hansen said that she would like to see more development in

the sciences and health sciences.

"We need more women faculty in those areas," she said.

In addition, Hansen said that Pitt does not provide as much in respect to budget and staff support as other universities do.

"We do not have resources comparable to other universities. We cannot even compete with small colleges in Pennsylvania. There is room for growth," she said.

Many major universities and small colleges offer women's studies programs. Some programs are very ambitious with majors and full-time staff, but most are like Pitt's program.

Undergraduate students enlisted in 7,000 hours of WSP cross-listed courses, Hansen said. The enrollment is up 70 percent over the last five years.

"Many of the courses close as soon as registration opens," she said.

Courses range from Sex and Racism to Women & Literature to Psychological Aspect of Human Sexuality to Women in Politics.

Hansen said women have made changes in many fields, but there is no disciplinary area or field that she has heard of where women are paid more than men. She added that the value of women in this society is no where near the value of men.

"We by no means exclude men. Men are more than welcome in our courses," Hansen said. "Issues

of gender are a concern to everybody."

She said that men should take some of these courses because they are increasingly working with women; it would be in their best interest.

There is a 15 to 20 percent enrollment of men in WSP courses. "We have had a couple of men receive certificates in the past," she said.

WSP also offers graduate program options. Graduate students may choose a minor in women's studies, a master's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies or graduate elective courses.

Hansen said that she feels the quality and quantity of research on gender in all disciplines has definitely improved. WSP has a Women's Studies Bibliography in Hillman Library that contains current and historical material.

WSP also offers internships and an independent studies program, sends out newsletters, sponsors conferences and guest speakers and is involved with the National Women Studies Association.

Megan Terry of Omaha Magic Theater will be coming April 13 to speak on "Women's Contributions to Contemporary American Theatre: Generations in the Continuum." Also, Omaha Magic Theater will combine dance, sculpture, poetry, music and visual installation in a performance piece about censorship.

Information 'bullets' help BAS to educate

By Alissa Smith
Staff Writer

Information "bullets" are an essential part of the campaign for the Black Action Society's proposed Black Cultural Center, said members of BAS' Committee for a Black Cultural Center.

Committee members kicked off a distribution of historical facts called "bullets" during their Great Slave-Holders Week, February 17-21, held in response to the country's celebration of President's Day and the University of Pittsburgh's recognition of Great American's Day.

"[It's] like you don't even count when they call someone who's a slave master a 'great American' and don't even put an asterisk under it or don't even discuss this person," Justin Laing, chairperson of the CBCC, said.

The bullets were invented to give students a better understanding of the committee, present ideas not found in the classrooms and enlighten students on the way history has been presented compared to the way it really was, Laing said.

Laing said he and the other committee members have discovered that the best way to combat society's ignorance is through the human mind.

"Your mind is a weapon to defend yourself against this foreign

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