majority

Office for Women's Affairs Indiana University Bloomington

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Feminism: Where Have We Been? Where Are We Heading? by Colleen Reilly

N 1978 THE EDUCATION TASK FORCE OF THE SONOMA COUNTY COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN DEVELOPED A WOMEN'S HISTORY WEEK" CELEBRATION IN RESPONSE TO A LACK OF AWARENESS OF WOMEN'S HISTORY IN SCHOOL CURRICULUMS AND IN THE GENERAL PUBLIC'S PERCEPTION. Within a few years, thousands of schools, businesses, and individuals were participating in National Women's History Week. Due to the growth of the project and the enthusiasm of schools and citizens, the National Women's History Project petitioned Congress to expand the celebration to span the entire month of March.

This year, schools, universities, advocacy groups, businesses, and individuals celebrated the 19th annual Women's History Month. The theme, "Women: Builders of Communities and Dreams," honors generations of women for their creation of communities, advocacy for the cohesion of communities, and the restoration of hope during trying times. The 2006 honorees represent women who are creating communities, hope, and sustainability, and they join a list of honorees which includes Susan B. Anthony, Amelia Earhart, Sojourner Truth, Sandra Day O'Connor, Wilma Rudolph, Gertrude Stein, Emily Dickinson, and dozens of influential women.

Over the last six months, we have lost three women who were diligent champions for women's, civil, and human rights. Highlighted in this edition of the Majority Report, Rosa Parks, Coretta Scott King, and Betty Friedan dedicated their personal and professional lives to promoting equal treatment for women and individuals of color. These three women, along with other leaders such as Gloria Steinem, Kate Millet, and Carol Gilligan, are considered to be of the "Second Wave" of feminism. Often said to have been sparked by Betty Friedan's *The Feminine Mystique*, the women's movement of the 1960's and 70's focused primarily on issues such as abortion reform, no fault divorce, equal pay, credit legislation, and consciousness of sexism (Baumgardner and Richards).

Thirty years after this movement began, when many of these goals have been accomplished and when women are graduating from college at rates similar to or higher than those of men and are entering the workforce in much greater numbers, questions are often raised such as:

Where are we now? Do we need to change our strategies? Has American culture changed to the point that the idea of having a feminist movement no longer makes sense? Jennifer

Baumgardner and Amy Richards, the authors of ManifestA: young women, feminism, and the Future, suggest that the only way to answer questions such as these is to imagine what our lives would be like today if the women's movement of the 1970's had never happened.

"Women, if the soul of the nation is to be saved, I believe that you must become its soul."

Story continued on page 2

Majority Report

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INDIANA UNIVERSITY

The majority of students enrolled at IU Bloomington are women, who constitute 52.3 percent of the student body.

From the Editor

The first Kenneth Gros Louis Woman of Distinction Lecture Series featured Helena Michie of Rice University. If you are interested in contributing to the lecture series you may do so through payroll deduction by contacting the IUF.

In the fall we will continue the Women in Science Distinguished Lecture Series. We encourage you to watch our web site, your department bulletin boards, and your email announcing future speakers.

OWA's Sarah Parke Morrison Society Scholarship awarded four firstgeneration women. Women in Science (WISP) provided travel grants and WISP Research Day poster competition awards. OWA will continue working throughout the summer to expand classroom space for the Campus Child Care Center and providing greater access to the Emergency Babysitting

Linda C. McCammon Editor

For instance, babies born during that time are automatically given their father's name, and if none is given, the baby is listed as "illegitimate" on the birth certificate. A woman can get legally an abortion only in New York, Cuba, London, or Scandinavia. A Women's Studies major does not exist. Forty-four percent of women are employed outside the home and they make, on average, 52 cents to the male dollar. A married woman cannot obtain credit without her husband's signature. Domestic violence is not yet a term, much less a punishable crime. If a woman is not a Mrs., she is a Miss.

Undoubtedly, our lives- women's and men's-are drastically different than they were 30 years ago thanks largely to the leaders of the women's movement of the 1970's. For most people born since then, "feminism is like fluoride. We scarcely notice that we have it-it's simply in the water" (Baumgardner and Richards). In ManifestA, Baumgardner and Richards define third wave feminists as the "core mass of the current women's movement in their late teens through their thirties, roughly speaking." Although there is often believed to be generational conflict between Second Wave and Third Wave feminists, the core belief in legal, political, and social equality has not changed much since the women's movement of the 1960's and 70's. From the women of the Second Wave, strategies have been learned to help combat sexual harassment, domestic abuse, and the wage gap. However, there has also been the introduction of modern issues such as access to the internet and technology, HIV/AIDS awareness, globalization, eating disorders, body image, sexual health, reproductive rights, and gay couples' access to marriage and adoption.

So, where are we now? Jennifer Maher, Lecturer in Gender Studies at IU, suggests that current backlashes against reproductive rights and affirmative action, for example, underscore the relevance that feminism still holds in our culture. According to Maher, despite some divergences, Third Wave feminism has built upon the foundation laid by the leaders of the Second Wave to include these core issues: reproductive rights and health, queer theory, transgender issues, affirmative action, issues of non-white, non-middle class women, and men's roles in the movement.

When asked who the leaders of this movement are, Maher proposes that the Third Wave seems to be mindful of not declaring clearly defined spokeswomen such as Gloria Steinem which existed during the Second Wave of Feminism. She suggests that women like Amy Richards, Jennifer Baumgardner, Rebecca Walker, Leslie Heywood, and Jennifer Drake have written influential works on Third Wave feminism, but that no one in particular has become the representative for the movement. This appears to be a conscious effort on the part of the movement to allow for the largest diversity of opinions and ideas, and to include both women and men from all racial, ethnic, orientation, and class backgrounds.

With the feminism of today, encouraging and advocating for the advancement of women is something we can all participate in year round- not just during Women's History Month. This issue of the Majority Report features and celebrates the achievements of a diverse group of women who have worked and who are currently working to facilitate the achievement and advancement of women professionally, individually, and politically.

Baumgardner, Jennifer and Amy Richards. ManifestA: young women, feminism, and the Future. Farrar, Straus, and Giroux: New York. 2000.

"A girl should not expect special privileges because of her sex but neither should she adjust to prejudice and discrimination.

Women in Science Distinguished Lecturers

On March 1st the Office for Women's Affairs sponsored another Outstanding Women Scienctist Lecturer. Joanna Aizenberg, chemist in the nanotechnology department at Bell Labs in New Jersey, gave a lecture titled "Lessons In Optics and Mechanics from Marine Creatures." It described two natural optical systems-- microlens arrays and waveguides -- and the ways in which these biological structures provide new ideas for the fabrication of improved optical devices and structures.

Beth Plale, Associate Professor in the Department of Computer Science and the School of Informatics, gave her talk, "Opening the Gates to Data Driven Computational Science through Cyberinfrastructure" on April 17th as the final speaker in the 2005-2006 lecture series.

Betty Friedan, writer, activist, and feminist, died at her home in Washington from congestive heart failure on February 4, 2006, her 85th birthday. Born Bettye Goldstein, she graduated from Smith College, and eventually worked for a labor newspaper in New York until getting fired after becoming pregnant with her second child.

In 1963 Friedan startled the country with her discussion of "the problem that has no name" in her book, *The Feminine Mystique*. Her insights into the frustrations and disappointment felt by educated stay-at-home women in the 1950's created instant controversy in an American culture that expected

women to be content with lives void of careers, dreams, and goals of their own. Following the release of this book, Friedan soon became one of the most recognized and outspoken feminists at that time. She actively pushed for equal pay, sex neutral help-wanted ads, maternity leave, child-care centers for working parents, and legal abortion.



Friedan

In 1966 Friedan helped found and became the first president of the National Organization for Women (NOW), the largest organization in the women's movement. She was the founder of the National Women's Political Caucus in the 1970s and of the abortion rights organization known as NARAL-Pro Choice America.

Although splitting with NOW in the 1970s and receiving criticism for *The Feminine Mystique*'s lack of attention to low-income women and women of color, Friedan became known as the "Mother of Modern Feminism" to many. In her later years, her focus of interest expanded to include issues of ageism, family, and economic empowerment.

Rosa Parks: The Mother of the Modern Day Civil Rights Movement

by Colleen Reilly

Rosa Parks, born in Tuskegee, Alabama, is best known for her refusal to abandon her seat on a city bus to a white man. Her subsequent arrest and trial sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott which became one of the largest and most successful mass movements protesting racial segregation pushing it's leader, Martin Luther King, Jr., to the forefront of the civil rights movement.

After a full day of work at Montgomery Fair department store, Parks boarded a bus downtown and sat in the first row of seats in the back reserved for black passengers. As the bus continued along its route, all of the white-only seats filled up. Eventually, the bus driver asked Ms. Parks and several other black passengers to move to allow room for a white passenger to sit. The others got out of their seats and moved to the back. Parks remained seated. When Parks refused to move, the bus driver called the police, and they proceeded to arrest her. She was eventually charged with a violation of segregation laws, found guilty and fined \$10, plus \$4 in court costs.

In her autobiography, Parks explains her rationale for refusing to give up her seat that afternoon:

"People always say that I didn't give up my seat because I was tired, but that isn't true. I was not tired physically, or no more tired than I usually was at the end of a working day. I was not old, although some people have an image of me as being old then. I was forty-two. No, the only tired I was, was tired of giving in."



Parks

Parks's bold action that day not only initiated the Montgomery Bus Boycott, it became a symbol of the fight for civil rights and equality. Up to her death on October 25, 2005 at the age of 92, Parks continued to be an advocate for civil, human, and women's rights. She truly was the "matriarch of the civil rights movement" for many.

Even after her death, Parks continued to make history. She became one of only thirty people to lie in state at the Washington

"Memories of our lives, of our works and our deeds will continue in others."-

Civil Rights Champion: Coretta Scott King by Colleen Reilly

Coretta Scott King, known as the wife of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and as a civil and human rights activist, died in her sleep at a holistic health center in Mexico on January 31 at the age of 78. King had suffered failing health following a stroke and a heart



Reared in rural Alabama on a cotton farm, she graduated at the top of her high school class and continued her education at Antioch College. Following graduation, she studied voice and violin at the New England Conservatory in Boston, where she met Martin Luther King Jr. The couple married in 1953, and they moved to Montgomery, Alabama where Dr. King was named pastor at a community church. The couple had four children, all of whom later became civil rights activists as well.

After Dr. King's assassination on April 4, 1968, Mrs. King devoted the rest of her life to continuing his work for social justice and to maintaining his legacy, particularly in the establishment of the King Center in Atlanta and a national holiday in his honor. Mrs. King continued to advocate for issues that she believed bred violence-hunger, unemployment, voting rights, and racism.

In her later life, Mrs. King participated in a series of sit-in protests against apartheid in Washington, D.C. She traveled to South Africa, and upon her return to the U.S., urged President Reagan to approve sanctions against South Africa. Mrs. King also called for the regulation of advertising in industries she believed promoted violence such as film, television, video game, gun, and toy manufacturers. Throughout her adult life, she championed women's rights and spoke out against racial profiling, mandatory minimum sentences, and attacks on affirmative action.

Following her death, King's body was returned to Atlanta, and she became the first woman and African-American to lie in state at the Georgia State Capitol. Over 14,000 people attended her funeral at her daughter's congregation in Lithonia, Georgia. In attendance were four presidents, their wives, and several other political figures. Speakers included former FBI director William Sessions, Maya Angelou, Dr. Joseph Lowery, and chairwoman of the National Council of Negro Women, Dorothy Height.

"here lies dorothy parker" by Yesenia

"I don't care what's written about me, so long as it isn't true."

- Dorothy Parker

Dorothy Parker, celebrated as one of the most brilliant writers of the early twentieth century, is best known for her viciously humorous poems-often about her ludicrous romantic entanglements and her infatuation with suicide. Born in 1893, her early life was plagued by tragedy with the death of her mother when she was four, her stepmother when she was nine, her brother when she was nineteen, and her father the following year. After earning money playing piano for several years, her literary career began in 1916 when she sold her first poem to Vanity Fair. She was eventually hired as an editorial assistant for its sister publication, Vogue. In 1917 she met and married Wall Street broker, Edwin Parker II, but they were immediately separated by World War I and soon divorced.

Her palette was varied and prolificpoetry, short stories, essays, book and theatre reviews, plays and screenplays. Her career flourished while writing theatre criticism for Vanity Fair, where she met Robert Benchley and Robert E. Sherwood. They began lunching together at the Algonquin Hotel along with the other founding members of the infamous and elite literary circle, the Algonquin Round Table. In 1929 she received the prestigious O. Henry Prize for the best story of the year for "The Big Blonde." In 1937 she received an Academy Award nomination for the screenplay of a Star is Born, co-written with Robert Carson and her second husband Alan Campbell.

During the 1930's Parker became involved with left-wing politics, helping to establish the Anti-Nazi League in Hollywood. She was later investigated by the FBI for suspected involvement with Communism during the McCarthy era, leading to her placement on the Hollywood Blacklist.

In her later life she wrote sporadic book reviews for Esquire. Following the death of her second husband, she remained in New York, suffering from increasingly poor health often attributed to excessive drinking. She died alone in her hotel room in 1967 from a massive heart attack. She bequeathed her entire literary estate to the NAACP.

On Monday, March 27 the Office for Women's Affairs sponsored a performance by Niki Lee, here lies dorothy parker. A voice teacher at Towson University in Baltimore, Lee is also a playwright and singer/songwriter. Her performance chronicles the story of Parker's life through the telling of fictitious diary entries accompanied by Parker's poetry set to song.

Helena Michie Named First Kenneth Gros Louis Woman of **Distinction**

Dr. Helena Michie, the Agnes C. Arnold Professor of the Humanities at Rice University, was the inaugural lecturer in the Kenneth Gros Louis Women of Distinction Lecture Series. The Office for Women's Affairs established this series in honor of Chancellor Gros Louis on his retirement after twenty-one years of distinguished and dedicated service as Chancellor. Called out of retirement in 2004, he served as interim Vice President of Academic Affairs and Bloomington Chancellor until February 2006 when Michael McRobbie assumed the position of Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs. Gros Louis currently serves as Chancellor of the Bloomington Campus.

Gros Louis earned his BA at Columbia University and his doctorate at the University of Wisconsin. He joined the Indiana University faculty as assistant professor in English and Comparative Literature in 1964. In 1970 he won the IU Distinguished Teaching Award. Before being named Vice President for Academic Affairs and Bloomington Chancellor, he served as acting chair of Comparative Literature, Chair of the

Department of English, and Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

During his tenure at IU, Gros Louis was a fervent advocate for women on campus and of their status in academia. His decisions supported the establishment of tenure-track positions for women who did research and teaching and made it possible for those women to earn their tenure.

Former Dean of the Office for Women's Affairs, Jean Robinson, and several female faculty members wished to express their appreciation for the work Gros Louis did to improve the campus atmosphere for women. The lecture series, named in his honor, is the result. Robinson intended for the series to "continually remind us that Ken Gros Louis has supported women's creativity and their voice in the academy."

Michie, the first Kenneth Gros Louis Woman of Distinction, is the recipient of several awards at Rice University, as well as a Guggenheim Fellowship and two awards from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Professor Michie's Inaugural talk, Victorian Honeymoon: Carnal Knowledges, explored the question of how much middle-class Victorians knew about sex. Drawing from a case study of 63 honeymooning couples, she focused on four women to examine

both what the Victorians knew about sex and how much scholars can know about their knowledge. Novels, medical and conduct manuals, letters. and diaries were used to examine the honeymoon, with its paradoxical insistence on privacy and



display, its displacement of private experiences onto landscape, and its expectation of transformation to a new form of conjugal identity.

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."- Maya Angelou

Women in Science 8th Annual Research

On March 9, 2006 The Office for Women's Affairs sponsored the 8th annual Women in Science Research Day, providing IUB graduate and undergraduate women the opportunity to present their research in natural sciences, social sciences, mathematics, and technology before a group of reviewers.

Keynote speaker Dr. Constance Brown, Assistant Professor of Atmospheric Science, spoke of the challenges women in science face, specifically insufficient funding, lack of encouragement, and lower quality mentoring. According to Dr. Brown, less than 10% of women scientists make it to full professor it most fields; far fewer women scientists than men attain tenure; and women tend to publish, on average, fewer publications yearly than men. However, Dr. Brown remains hopeful that this discouraging culture can be altered. She suggested that this change can occur through seeking mentors, setting high goals, maintaining enthusiasm, committing to excellence, and keeping a sense of humor. Dr. Brown's advice to the women scientists in attendance was: "Do not deny who you are. It is only by embracing with excellence and confidence all that we are, that we can continue to change the still male-dominated scientific gender culture imposed upon us."

The undergraduate poster winners were: Christina Lirot, Diane Cessna, Leah Fey, and Andrea Lammers. The graduate winners were: Anne Faber, Tammy Toscos, Tammy Katherine Bravo, Mirela Dumitrescu.

NEW WOMEN FACULTY Bring Diverse Talents to IU

Every year Majority Report highlights new women faculty at IU. We're pleased to report that 36 new tenure-track women academics have joined the IU Bloomington faculty this year. We will highlight profiles of them over several issues.









Hurley

Lederman

Hersh

Syer

Suchetana "Tuli" Mukhopadhyay,

Assistant Professor in Biology, received her PhD in Chemistry from University of Illinois at Chicago in 1996 and her undergraduate degree from DePauw University in 1991. Following graduate school, she studied at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School's Department of Pharmacology, where she studied G proteins and their signaling kinetics. She has taught at Purdue University's Department of Biological Sciences, where she studied alpha and flaviviruses, and continues this work here at Indiana University.

Leandra Lederman, the William W. Oliver Professor of Tax Law and Director of the Tax Program at the School of Law, received a J.D. cum laude from New York University School of Law in 1990 and was elected to the Order of the Coif. After graduation, she practiced law at White & Case in New York. She then returned to NYU to pursue an LL.M. in taxation, where she was a Student Editor of the Tax Law Review. After receiving her LL.M. in 1993, she clerked for Judge David Laro of the United States Tax Court. .

Patricia Hersh, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, received her Ph.D. from MIT in 1999 and has held postdoctoral positions at the University of Washington and the University of Michigan. Her research interests

include topological and algebraic combinatorics and interactions between combinatorics and other areas of mathematics such as commutative algebra, representation theory and topology.

Fontaine Syer, Assistant Professor of Theatre and Drama, has worked as an actor and director in regional theatres for nearly 30 years. Most recently, she was Artistic Director of Delaware Theatre Company in Wilmington. From 1992-96, she served as Associate Artistic Director of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, where she acted/directed each season. She was also co-founder and Artistic Director of Theatre Project Company in St. Louis, MO from 1975-1989.

Laura Hurley, Assistant Professor of Biology, earned a BA in Biology in 1989 from the University of Virginia and a PhD in Zoology in 1997 from the University of Washington. She began her current research in a postdoctoral study funded by an NIH National Research Service Award. Dr. Hurley accepted a position as Assistant Research Scientist in the Indiana University Biology Department in 2001, and became Assistant Professor in 2005.

Eden Medina, Assistant Professor of Informatics, received her Ph.D. in 2005 from the MIT Doctoral Program in the History and Social Studies of Science and Technology and holds degrees in electrical engineering and women's studies from Princeton University.

Dionne Danns, Assistant Professor of Education, received her Ph.D. in Educational Policy Studies in 2001 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She was a recipient of the American Educational Research Association and the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences (AERA-IES) postdoctoral fellowship and served as a visiting assistant professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Michiko Suzuki, Assistant Professor of East Asian Languages & Cultures, received her Ph.D. in Japanese with a minor in Comparative Literature from Stanford University. She teaches courses on Japanese language, literature, film, gender and popular culture.



Medina



Danns



Suzuki

OWA Award Day

2006 Office for Women's Affairs Athletic Award: Richard F. Mull, Director, HPER Auxiliary Units, School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, IUB, 2004-present. Director, Center for Student Leadership Development, HPER, IUB Fall 2002-present. Director, Indiana University Tennis Center, HPER, 1991-present. Director, Indiana University Outdoor Pool, HPER, 1994-present. Assistant Professor, Dept of Recreation and Parks Administration, HPER, Indiana University 2004-present. Rich's commitment to advancing opportunities for women in sport over the past 33 years includes, intramural sports, Spirit of Sport All Night, and student leadership. He developed a model of equality before it was in fashion, and he continues to this day to influence women and their work in positive and successful ways.

OWA's Athletic Award honors a faculty or staff member on the Indiana University-Bloomington campus who has worked to encourage women's athletic and academic excellence at IU. Major consideration is given to individuals who currently give generously of their time and energy to support greater athletic opportunities for women.

2006 Office for Women's Affairs Outstanding Staff Award: Norma B. Holland, retired, Associate Vice President for University Information Systems. Norma advanced from an entry level programmer/analyst to a lead analyst to manager of a systems development team in the original Administrative Computing Department. Later she was able to have a greater impact on women's concerns when she moved into senior management in the early 1990's. As Associate Director for UITS she had several notable accomplishments which contributed to the advancement of women in the IT organization. She championed the hiring of women and other underrepresented groups; once they were hired she was able to effectively mentor these women, because of her understanding of the challenges they were facing in the workplace from her previous experiences.

OWA's Outstanding Staff Award is annual and honors a staff person at IUB who has contributed to advancing women's status on campus and in the community.

2006 Office for Women's Affairs Distinguished Scholar Award: Rosemary Lloyd, Rudy Professor of French and Italian and Gender Studies. A Guggenheim, NEH, and Camargo Foundation grant recipient, Rosemary has also been honored with the highest British academic honor, the Doctor of Litterae honorary degree of Cambridge University, an award conferred to scholars who have honored Cambridge's name in the world. Professor Lloyd is a world renowned scholar of modern French literature and culture. She has published extensively on 19th and 20th century French prose poetry and culture. Rosemary's works have been a source of inspiration for generations of students who have been encouraged to work on French women authors or on related theoretical matters. In the past fifteen years, Rosemary has directed many dissertations on women writers, and she has taught several classes on women authors and intellectuals. But what counts more is that she has truly touched the lives of many women students, mentoring them, encouraging them to pursue their academic careers, and inspiring them to achieve their potential regardless of the circumstances.

The primary criterion for the award is outstanding scholarship and/or creative work, as recognized by peers at the university and in the candidate's profession. While the quality and substance of the candidate's contributions to scholarship or creative work are the primary criteria, the committee also looks for evidence of involvement in efforts to enhance women's lives through research, teaching, or service. All faculty at the Bloomington campus are eligible for nomination.

Jane Rogan: Recipient of the 2005 Professional Staff Award by

Elizabeth Burbach

This December, Jane Rogan, Associate Director of the Liberal Arts and Management Program (LAMP), was awarded a 2005 Professional Staff Award for her untiring service to the IUB academic community. In addition to her duties at LAMP, she is a recent past president of the Professional Staff Council, a former advisor on the Strategic Planning Committee, and a newly appointed member of the COAS Dean Search Committee.

Raised in England in a working class family, Rogan grew up thinking a job was nothing more than a method of supporting oneself and a family. After receiving her undergraduate degree from the University of Central England, she followed her then husband to Bloomington in 1993 and began working as an office assistant in the School for Continuing Studies. This job was Jane's first experience interacting with professional women who experienced their work as meaningful and inspiring.

It occurred to Rogan she could spend her time doing something she loved, so she went back to school to get a Master's in Higher Education. Newly divorced and without the support of her family, Jane blazed her own trail through graduate school and into professional work. She brings this to bear upon her work, using her experience to both benefit others and to create engaging work for herself. Rogan emphasizes the importance of the process of growth and change. She believes that, as a mentor, it is imperative to have patience, humility, and the ability to listen because "hearing another person's story is as important as sharing your own." Rogan confirms that women of all ages and in all walks of life continue to face obstacles and challenges, both externally and internally, but that through

This issue of the Majority Report features and celebrates the achievements of a diverse group of women who have worked and who are currently working to facilitate the achievement and advancement of women professionally, individually, and politically.

Office for Women's Affairs

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The Majority Index

Fourteen of 100 members of the Senate are women.

One of nine Supreme Court Justices are woman.

Thirty-five percent of IUB full-time faculty are female.

Thirty-eight percent of 4,884 full time administrator, faculty, visiting faculty and lecturers at IUB are women.

Of 54 full time physics faculty members, 3 are women.

There have been 0 Female presidents or vice presidents of the United States of America

Although women make up almost half of America's labor force, still only two Fortune 500 companies have women CEOs or presidents; and 90 of those companies don't have any women corporate officers.

Four of the twenty-five richest people in the world are women (three of whom inherited their money after John Walton, son of the founder of Wal-mart, died in a plane crash.)