

Mississippi Women's Spring Leadership Conference

March 1-2, 2007

Plymouth Bluff Center
Mississippi University
for Women

www.muw.edu/swi/WHEMN.htm


Mississippi Women's Spring Leadership Conference

Southern Women's Institute
Mississippi University for Women
1100 College Street MUW-269
Columbus, MS 39701

Plymouth Bluff Center
2200 Old West Point Road, Columbus, MS 39701
Plymouth Bluff, the site of our conference, accommodates
48 guests in 24 rooms. Double occupancy is \$65 and
single occupancy is \$55 a night, including tax.
Contact Plymouth Bluff at 662-241-6214 for reservations
or visit www.plymouthbluff.com.



Women in
Higher Education—
Mississippi! Network



Mississippi Women's Spring Leadership Conference

All events are at Plymouth Bluff. For more information, visit <http://www.muw.edu/swi/WHEMN.htm>

Thursday, March 1, 2007

- 9:00 a.m. Registration Plymouth Bluff Center lobby
- 10:00 a.m. Welcome
Dr. Debbie Norris, WHEMN Coordinator
Dr. Bridget Pieschel, Director, Southern Women's Institute at MUW
Dr. Lucy Betcher, Director, Women's Center for Entrepreneurship at MUW
- 10:30 a.m. GENERAL SESSION I Auditorium
"The Business of Communication"
Jill Rigby, President and Founder, The Business of Manners
- 11:45 a.m. LUNCH Plymouth Bluff Center
- 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. BREAK OUT SESSION I
"The Business of Manners" Auditorium
Jill Rigby, President and Founder, The Business of Manners

"Balancing Stones: Women and Leadership" Conference Room
Suzanne Bean, Director, Roger F. Wicker Center for Creative Learning at MUW
- 2:30 p.m. BREAK
- 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. BREAK OUT SESSION II
"Balancing Stones: Women and Leadership" Conference Room
Suzanne Bean, Director, Roger F. Wicker Center for Creative Learning at MUW

"Communicating Divas: Getting Your Message Across" Auditorium
Tonjanita Johnson, Executive Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff at MVSU
Debbie Montgomery, Director of Public Relations at MVSU
- 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. SOCIAL HOUR
- 5:30 p.m. DINNER Plymouth Bluff Center
Dr. Claudia Limbert, MUW President
Speaker: Dr. Betty Siegel

Friday, March 2, 2007

- 7:45 a.m. Continental Breakfast
- 8:30 a.m. GENERAL SESSION II Auditorium
"Wild Thing"
Dr. Joyce Yates, Professor of Health and Kinesiology at MUW
- 10: a.m. BREAK
- 10:30 a.m. GENERAL SESSION III Auditorium
"The Future is Yours to Create"
Nancy Hunter Denney, Author and Speaker
- 11:45 a.m. LUNCH Plymouth Bluff Center
Recipient of the 2007 WHEMN Leadership Award will be announced
- 1:00 p.m. ADJOURNMENT

This program is co-sponsored by the Women's Center for Entrepreneurship which is funded by a grant from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). SBA's funding should not be construed as an endorsement of any products, opinions, or services.
All SBA-funded projects are extended to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis.



Dr. Bridget Smith Pieschel, a native Mississippian, is an alumna of Mississippi University for Women with a Ph.D. in English from the University of Alabama.

Her career at MUW includes her having served as the Director of the Honors Program from 1992-95, and was the Head of the Division of Humanities until 2005 when she became the Director of the Southern Women's Institute. The Southern Women's Institute provides a foundation for research and inclusive outreach through a multidisciplinary approach to the study of women in both traditional and non-traditional roles. The Institute's research focuses on the history of MUW and the position women hold in the culture and foundation of the south both today and in the future. Dr. Pieschel was the Recipient of the MUW Medal of Excellence in 2005. She gives numerous presentations each year to civic groups and student groups about MUW's history and the history of women's education in Mississippi.



Lucy Betcher has been hired to lead the Women's Center for Entrepreneurship at Mississippi University for Women, which has been established to assist individuals who want to start or enhance their business.

Calls have already started coming in to the center, according to Betcher, who is eager to share her wealth of knowledge with clients.

"Since I have worked in the entrepreneurship arena for nearly 20 years, I have developed contacts and working relationships in the economic development field and have the knowledge of resources and programs available to small business owners," she said. "Additionally, since I myself am a woman entrepreneur, I have direct knowledge of the pleasures as well as the problems that confront women business owners."

Betcher served as director of two small business development centers—more recently for the University of Southern Mississippi's center in Long Beach, where she supervised a six-county area. She attended MUW and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in education from Mississippi State University.



Dr. Joyce Yates is Associate Professor, Emma Ody Pohl Endowed Chair, and Coordinator of the graduate program in health education in the Division of Health and Kinesiology at Mississippi University for Women. She received a bachelor's degree from the University of Mississippi and masters and doctor of education degrees from Mississippi State University. During her

undergraduate education at Ole Miss, she was a member of the first women's intercollegiate basketball and tennis teams. Dr. Yates is the co-author of *Simple Fitness for your Body, Mind and Spirit*, a book which addresses six areas of health: physical health, nutritional health, social health, intellectual health, emotional health, and spiritual health.



Dr. Tonjanita L. Johnson currently serves as Executive Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff at Mississippi Valley State University in Itta Bena, MS. She joined the MVSU staff in June 2001 as director of Public Relations and was promoted to her current position in the President's Office in September 2002.

A resident of Greenwood, MS, Dr. Johnson began her college career at the University of Alabama in the summer of 1987 as a New York Times Scholar. She earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Alabama in Mass Communication in 1991 and 1996, respectively. She also holds a Ph.D., in Urban Higher Education from Jackson State University, where she also served as a Jake Ayers Fellow.

Dr. Johnson serves on numerous committees at Mississippi Valley State University. For her professional and community efforts, she was named among the "Top 50 Business Women in the Delta" by the *Delta*

Business Journal in 2002 and has been recognized twice by *Mahogany Magazine* as being among the "Top 40 Women under 40."

Dr. Johnson has been married for 13 years to former NFL player Tony Johnson, who is a native of Mississippi and is also employed at MVSU as the Assistant Vice President for Marketing. They have a five-year-old daughter, T'Anna Gabrielle, who is a kindergarten student at Bankston Elementary. In her spare time, Dr. Johnson enjoys reading home and garden magazines; crocheting; renovating her home, which is on the National Registry of Historic Places; and watching Matlock.



Debbie Montgomery, a Canton native, has worked for various Mississippi weekly and daily newspapers for more than 25 years. She has taught journalism at her alma mater, Mississippi University for Women, and William Carey College. Montgomery joined MVSU as Director of Public Relations last March after nearly two years at Mississippi State in the Office of Agricultural

Communications. Ms. Montgomery holds a master's degree in journalism from the University of Alabama. She is pursuing a Ph.D. in educational leadership with emphasis in instructional technology, also from UA. A mother of a current W Girl, Liz, Montgomery is writing her first novel. In between writer's block, she spends her free time planning Liz's December wedding.

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REGISTRATION FORM

Registration website:

www.muw.edu/swi/WHEMN.htm

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Title _____

Educational Institution _____

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Name on card (*print*) _____

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Registration Fee \$50 per person

Overnight accommodations are separate!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE www.muw.edu/swi/WHEMN.htm
to find out more about reserving overnight accommodations.

Please make checks payable to MUW and mail to:
Southern Women's Institute
1100 College Street MUW-269, Columbus, MS 39701



Jill Rigby is an accomplished author, speaker, columnist and President of The Business of Manners.

Things were different, though, in 1989 when a simple assignment at her twin boy's elementary school sparked a flame that has propelled Rigby into the national spotlight as one of the nation's foremost authorities on manners, in the marketplace, in the classroom, and at home.

After teaching table manners to 150 children in that local school, she became inundated with requests for her curriculum. As demand grew, so did the curriculum, which is now in hundreds of elementary schools in the US and abroad. Eventually she launched a non-profit called Manners of the Heart Community Fund and serves as Executive Director.

In the meantime, Jill has authored several books, spoken to educators, parents and businesses across the nation, and of course became the founder and President of The Business of Manners.



Nancy Hunter Denney is a nationally recognized keynote speaker, author, and educator dedicated to helping others maximize their potential. She accomplishes this mission through a dynamic, high energy and humorous approach stage presence. A true educator, Nancy seeks to leave audience members in the "interested student of life" position while encouraging them to love learning, ask questions and pursue truth.

Prior to starting her own speaking business in 1993, Nancy Hunter Denney worked in higher education student affairs for twelve years, most recently as the assistant dean of students at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Her experiences include new student and parent orientation, student activities, and Greek affairs.

Nancy specializes in non-profit helping organizations, women's leadership organizations and higher education. She has appeared on over 650 college and university campuses, and is a frequent keynote speaker at national, regional and state conferences in higher education. In recent years, she has appeared on stage with Dr. Phil, Suze Orman, Soledad O'Brien, Amanda Gore, Sarah Weddington, and Dana Reeve.

An active member of her community, Nancy donates proceeds from her book sales to community service agencies. Nancy resides in Marion, MA with her two children, husband and sailboat.



Dr. Suzanne Bean is Director of the Roger F. Wicker Center for Creative Learning at Mississippi University for Women. She recently received the Frances A. Karnes Award of Excellence in Gifted Education, an award given by the Mississippi Association for Gifted Children and was presented to Bean for her significant contributions toward the improvement and

advancement of gifted education in Mississippi.

Bean has master and doctoral degrees in special education with an emphasis in gifted education. In 1991, she developed the master's program in gifted studies at MUW.

Dr. Bean has served as director of the Mississippi Governor's School held on the MUW campus and has served on the Board of Directors of the National Conference of Governor's Schools.

She has led numerous workshops, made conference presentations and is a contributor to books, instructional materials, assessment instruments and journal articles dealing with the many aspects of gifted education and leadership.



Dr. Betty L. Siegel, the first woman to head an institution in the 34-unit University System of Georgia, was President at Kennesaw State University from 1981 until her retirement in July 2006.

Dr. Siegel's academic areas of expertise include child psychology and administration. She received

her Ph.D. from Florida State University, an M.Ed. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, a B.A. in English and History from Wake Forest University, and an Associate of Arts from Cumberland College. She completed two years of post-doctoral study in Clinical Child Psychology at Indiana University.

As an internationally and nationally known lecturer and speaker on leadership, she has delivered keynote addresses at hundreds of national, regional and state conferences throughout 50 states, Puerto Rico, and ten foreign countries. Dr. Siegel has also served as a consultant to educational, business, not-for-profit organizations, health services, government and civic groups. In addition, she has lectured at more than 90 colleges and universities around the world.

Dr. Siegel is the recipient of numerous honors and awards, which includes Cobb County Citizen of the Year (1996) and "1997 Georgia Woman of the Year" (Georgia Commission on Women). *Business to Business Magazine* has selected her as one of their "Divas for Life." Of all her awards, Dr. Siegel is most proud of receiving the Distinguished Teacher of the Year award at the University of Florida in 1969.



Dr. Debbie C. Norris received her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Mississippi College, her Master of Education in Business from Mississippi State University, and her Doctorate of Philosophy in Higher Education & Administration from the University of Mississippi. Since 1998, she has been the Dean of the Graduate School at

Mississippi College and filled the role of Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs from May 2001 until 2003. She is currently the Vice President of Planning and Assessment.

Dr. Norris has acted as a consultant and speaker for many businesses and community organizations. She serves as Mississippi College's Liaison with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and recently served MC as its Self-Study Director.

Dr. Norris also is involved in the community. She presently serves on the Advisory Board for Entergy, Mississippi and the Jackson Community Board for Big Brothers/Big Sisters. She is on the Board of Trustees for Mississippi Baptist Health Systems and the Baptist Hospital.



Dr. Claudia A. Limbert was appointed by the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning as the 13th president of Mississippi University for Women. Her appointment began July 1, 2002.

Originally from Missouri, Dr. Limbert married and had four children before beginning college. She received a bachelor's degree in

English, history, and education from Bethel College in Kansas in 1978, and she received a master's degree in creative writing in 1980 and a doctorate in English literature in 1988, both from Boston University.

In 1988, Dr. Limbert began her career as an English and women's studies professor at Pennsylvania State University, Shenango. She was then selected as an administrative fellow, spending the next year in leadership training under the direction of a senior vice president at Penn State, University Park.

Dr. Limbert has received many awards, including the prestigious Athena Award for service to women and the community by the Greater DuBois Area Chamber of Commerce, the Outstanding College Administrator of Penn State's Commonwealth College in 2001, the Rosemary Schraer Mentor Award from Penn State University's Commission for Women in 2000, and the Teaching Award in 1994 from Penn State, Shenango's students. Most recently, she was selected as one of Mississippi's 12 Leading Business Women for 2004.

Dr. Limbert's fiction and non-fiction have appeared in such publications as *Country Living* and *House Beautiful*, and her scholarly work has appeared in *Restoration*, *Philological Quarterly*, and *The National Women's Studies Association Journal*. Her most recent work is an essay in the book "Herspace: Women, Writing, and Solitude."