

# Committee on the Status of Women

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## *2013-2014 Membership*

Hilde Lindemann, chair (2016)

Nancy Bauer (2015)

Ruth Chang (2016)

Carrie Figdor (2014)

Anne Jaap Jacobson (2016)

Mary Kate McGowan (2015)

Nancy Snow (2016)

Valerie Tiberius (2014)

Yolonda Wilson (2014)

Lijun Yuan (2015)

Peggy DesAutels, *ex officio* (2016)

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Lijun Yuan (2015)

Margaret Crouch (newsletter editor)

Peggy DesAutels (site visit director and webmistress)

## **Report from the Committee on the Status of Women**

Submitted by Hilde Lindemann

The members of the APA Committee on the Status of Women (CSW) engaged in the following activities during the 2013-2014 academic year.

### **Letter of Protest**

On 16 September 2013 the CSW sent a letter to the Senior Vice President for Finance and Business and the Vice President for Human Resources at Penn State, protesting a policy they had just initiated. A health risk assessment questionnaire that was part of Penn State's new employee wellness program asked women employees whether they planned to get pregnant in the next year. If the employee refused to disclose this she would be penalized \$100 for every month she continued to refuse. We pointed out that this violated women's right to privacy and imposed a burden of disclosure regarding sexual intent that was not imposed on men. We received no reply, but learned that the policy was dropped soon after.

### **The Wikipedia Project**

A graduate student who understands the complex formatting of Wikipedia entries donated his time and labor in fall 2013 to increase the representation of women philosophers on that site. CSW raised \$2,000 to provide partial support for his efforts.

### **Diversity Conference**

The Diversity Conference, held 29-31 May 2013 in Dayton, Ohio, was very well attended and offered many important strategies for bringing about greater diversity in philosophy and improving the climate for underrepresented groups. Participants pressed for a second such conference, which is to be held 28-30 May 2015 at Villanova University, in conjunction with the *Hypatia* conference. The conference organizers are Sally Scholz and Anne Jacobson. Additional features of the conference will include professional workshops on publishing feminist philosophy, a workshop on sexual harassment and bystander training, the APA Diversity Summit (May 29), and the APA/CSW site visit training workshop (May 31). Modest travel grants will be available for presenters who could not otherwise attend.

To help support the conference and training program, CSW launched a fund-raising campaign on International Women's Day (8 March 2014), followed by a matching grant appeal later in May. As of 30 June 2014, this initiative brought in \$13,575.00.

## **Site Visit Program**

A training session for twenty participants was held the day after the first Diversity Conference, and the site visit team immediately began receiving requests for visits. These must come from department chairs, deans, or higher administration, as the team goes only where it is invited to go. Site visitors' expenses are paid and they receive honoraria for what is typically a three-day visit. The first visit was conducted in September, followed by three more. An additional three have been requested for fall 2014. Most visits were or will be to philosophy departments with Ph.D. programs, although one is to a small liberal arts college with only an undergraduate program.

## **CSW Website**

The CSW website, at <http://www.apaonlinecsw.org/>, continues to feature bimonthly profiles of women philosophers. Links to excellent resources include one to a database on teaching with articles and readings, another to the crowd-sourced directory of women philosophers, and one to the APA Ombudsperson for Nondiscrimination, who will receive complaints of discrimination and, where possible, serve as a resource to APA members regarding such complaints.

## **CSW-Organized Sessions at APA Divisional Meetings**

*Eastern Division*, Baltimore, Md., Sunday, 29 December, 11:15 a.m.–1:15 p.m.

### **Men Behaving Splendidly—Why and How to Organize a Gender-Balanced Conference**

Chair: Kathryn Norlock (Trent University)  
Speakers: Kathryn Norlock (Trent University)  
John Protevi (Louisiana State University)  
Matthew Smith (University of Leeds)  
Jason Stanley (Yale University)

*Central Division*, Chicago, Ill., Thursday, 27 February, 12:10–2:10 p.m.

### **Attracting Women Philosophy Majors**

Speakers: Morgan Thompson (University of Pittsburgh)  
Toni Adelberg (University of California – San Diego)  
Najah Magliore (Colby College)

*Pacific Division*, San Diego, Calif., Saturday, 19 April, 9:00 a.m.–noon

### **APA/CSW Site Visit Program**

Speakers: Peggy DesAutels (University of Dayton)

Carla Fehr (University of Waterloo)  
Joseph Rouse (Wesleyan University)