

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

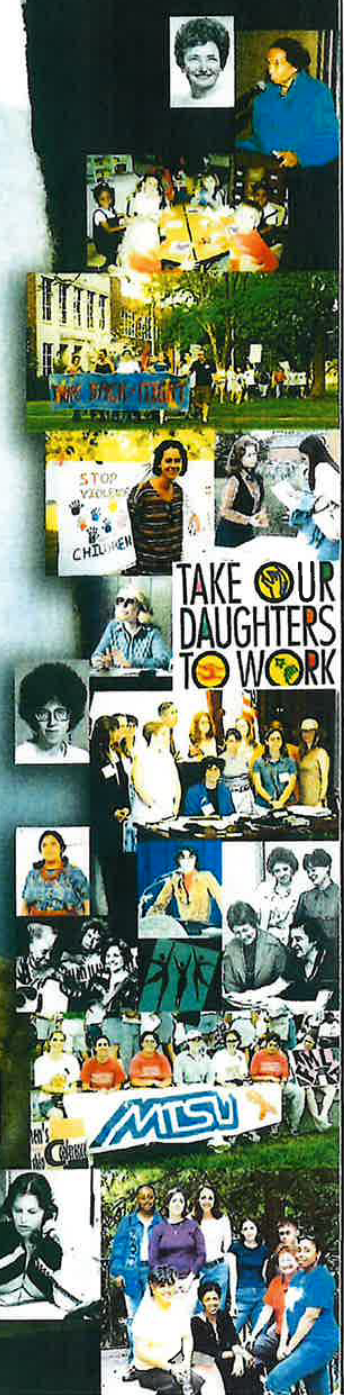
MAGAZINE

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June Anderson's legacy





June Anderson Women's Center

After June Anderson's death in 1984, Rebecca Rice [Salisbury] was hired as director. She served until 1992 and was followed by the current director, Candace Rosovsky, who is retiring at the end of 2002.

The JAWC office is now filled to capacity but still has plenty of room to serve as a welcoming oasis. The extensive library includes hundreds of books, some of them autographed by the prominent women leaders who have spoken on campus, and many others covering issues of reproduction, business, finance, eating disorders, feminist theory, and education. The center also distributes pamphlets on date rape, cancer facts for women, guidance services, and financial aid and makes available many safety- and hygiene-related items free of charge.

From the beginning, the JAWC has sponsored gatherings that have brought prominent women to campus to discuss important issues. The keynote speaker at the first Women's Conference in 1977 was psychologist Dr. Joyce Brothers, a wellness and health expert. Since then other notable speakers have included poet and best-selling author Maya Angelou; former U.S. Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders; and former Colorado congresswoman Pat Schroeder, who spent 24 years in the U.S. Congress and who is currently president and CEO of the Association of American Publishers. This year's speaker was former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

"The Women's Center is about nurturing and mentoring, not mothering," says director Rosovsky. Through extensive programs, the center counsels women on how to be assertive and resolve conflict. It also sponsors a free legal clinic one evening each month. Over the years, the

center has increased its efforts, extending services to the entire state and developing programs on specific issues of ethnicity.

Working closely with national and regional organizations of similar purpose has been a characteristic of the center's history. The JAWC helped start Women in Higher Education of Tennessee, and Rosovsky is that group's immediate past president. The center also has close connections with the American Association of University Women and the National Women's Studies Association. The JAWC has sent more than 35 students to annual workshops of the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders based in Washington, D.C., and Rosovsky has made presentations and led workshops for that organization and many like-minded groups.

The June Anderson Women's Center has been a learning lab over the past twenty-five years, changing with the times, continuing to serve students and the larger population, and providing a moral compass for the university. Its history demonstrates that one woman can make a difference; with energy and persistence, she can motivate others even after her death. The women's center bearing June S. Anderson's name is a significant, dynamic tribute to a woman who continues to be an inspiration to those who discover her legacy of scholarship, leadership, and compassion. ~



JAWC Founders

- Dr. June Anderson, *director, JAWC; professor, Chemistry, deceased*
 Faye Brandon, *assistant professor, HPERs, retired*
 Carol Carroll, *associate professor, Sociology and Anthropology*
 Anne Holland Cole, *associate professor, HPERs, retired*
 Dr. Bené Scanlon Cox, *professor, English*
 Dr. Janice Hayes, *professor, Educational Leadership*
 Dr. Jeannette Heritage, *professor, Psychology*
 Janet Higgins, *professor, Art*
 Mary Jo James, *director, Media Services, retired*
 Faye Johnson, *associate professor, Sociology and Anthropology; assistant to the Executive Vice President and Provost*
 Harriett Gaida, *assistant professor, Walker Library*
 Dr. Mary Belle Ginanni, *professor, HPERs, post retirement program*
 Margaret Ordoubadian, *associate professor, English*
 Jane Poole, *associate professor, Elementary and Special Education, retired*
 Ida Read, *assistant professor, Walker Library, retired*
 Dr. Elaine Royal, *professor, Psychology*
 Dr. Margaret Scott, *associate professor, Walker Library, retired*
 Dr. Esther Seeman, *director, Japan Center of Tennessee; professor, Political Science, deceased*
 Dr. Katherine Stroebel, *professor emeritus, HPERs*
 Dr. Frances Stubblefield, *professor emeritus, Mathematical Sciences, retired*
 Henrietta Wade, *Business Education, deceased*
 Dr. Sondra Wilcox, *professor, HPERs, retired*
 Dr. Marilyn Wells, *professor emeritus, Sociology and Anthropology, retired*
 Dr. Beverly Youree, *professor, Education, retired*

JAWC Founders Day Luncheon

Founders honored at the luncheon were, seated from left, Margaret Anderson Scott; Julius Seeman, husband of the late Esther Seeman; Ida Read; Katherine Stroebel; Julie Hawkins, June Anderson's cousin from Columbus, Ohio; Sondra Wilcox; and Mary Jo James. Standing from left are Candace Rosovsky, Anne Holland Cole, Janet Higgins, Bené Scanlon Cox, Mary Belle Ginanni, President Sidney McPhee, Jan Hayes, Margaret Ordoubadian, Faye Brandon, and Faye Johnson.

"June Anderson was a fire starter," Candace Rosovsky, director of the JAWC, told a luncheon audience on MTSU Founders Day, September 4. "But nobody works alone; the other 22 women we honor today were the flames." Honored as founders of the Center were the women who joined Anderson in starting Concerned Faculty and Administrative Women in 1975.

"People would say 'It was really June' when I asked them about how things happened, but I found out that each of you has a story," Rosovsky continued.

President Sidney McPhee introduced keynote speaker Thelma Harper, state senator, describing her as "a champion of higher education as well as an outspoken advocate for equal treatment." Referring to Harper's penchant for hats: "Wherever there's a

great looking hat, there is Thelma Harper."

Harper called on listeners to look back: "What were we thinking about 25 years ago? We wanted an opportunity. Whose back are we standing on today? Someone paved the way. Think about what June Anderson suffered as she was pushed aside."

The Nashville senator took her listeners through history with stories of Susan B. Anthony and her tireless efforts to give women the vote, of Harry Burn, the young legislator who listened to his mother and cast the deciding vote ratifying the 19th Amendment. Both faced danger as a result of their actions. "We can do most anything we want today because someone had the fortitude to do the right thing," Harper stated.

by Suma Clark; photos by Ken Robinson

