



Mary Lynn Broe

Broe Named To Noun Professorship

Mary Lynn Broe has been named the Louise Noun Professor of Women's Studies and English at Grinnell College. Broe comes to Grinnell from the State University of New York (SUNY) at Binghamton where she was an associate professor. She received a Ph.D. in modern British and American literature from the University of Connecticut where she also received an M.A. in medieval literature. Her undergraduate degree, with majors in English and Latin, was earned from St. Louis University. Before joining the SUNY faculty, she was an assistant professor at Notre Dame University.

Broe will have administrative responsibility for the integration of women's studies into the curriculum of Grinnell College. To encourage this curricular development, Broe plans the formation of an advisory committee representing several disciplines. This committee will be formed during the Fall 1986 semester. "The study of women should be more than adding women and stirring. Women's studies should transform a curriculum as we rethink courses," said Broe.

Looking further ahead, Broe hopes to stimulate a series of working papers by faculty and students. She also envisions a repository of scholarly resources. "We have an opportunity to create at Grinnell a fine and regional repository for works by and on midwestern women and writing," she added.

Broe will be teaching a 300-level special topics course on women writers and the mechanics of invisibility. "The course will use feminist theory to explore women writers who are omitted from 'basic' or traditional curricula," she explained. The course will trace the invisibility of women writers such as Aphra Behn (1645) through contemporary American poets.

Broe's articles on women and women writers have appeared in a variety of journals and publications. Forthcoming is her book entitled "Silence and Power: A Reevaluation of Djuna Barnes" (Southern Illinois University Press). She is currently working on a book with Fran McCullough entitled "Cold Comfort: The Letters of Djuna Barnes." Also in progress is a critical biography of Caresse Crosby. She is also scheduled to present a paper entitled "My Art Belongs To Daddy: The Women of Hayford Hall," at the 20th-century literature section of the Modern Language Association's annual meeting in December 1986.

In 1984, Broe received a National Endowment for the Humanities "Travel-to-Collections" Grant which enabled her to research the work of Caresse Crosby. A Canadian Embassy Award in 1984 aided Broe's development of a course that she taught at SUNY on Canadian women writers. She also was a Rockefeller Foundation resident at Bellagio, Italy in 1982.

"In an era of decreasing resources and increased student needs, the financial support for a women's studies program at Grinnell is exceptional," she concluded. The endowment for the Louise Noun professorship is anonymously-funded and honors Louise Noun of Des Moines, a Grinnell graduate, and longtime women's rights advocate, author, and civic leader.

A former chairwoman of the Iowa Civil Liberties Union, Noun is the author of the book "Strong-Minded Women," a history of the women's rights movement in Iowa. She is also a charter member and past president of the Des Moines League of Women Voters and has been an officer of the national Municipal League. In 1956, she received that organization's Distinguished Citizen Award for her work on municipal reform in Des Moines.