

4-1-2006

Book Reviews: Women Winners of the Alpha Sigma Nu Book Awards: Making Scholarships Visible

Anne D. Garner

Follow this and additional works at: <http://epublications.marquette.edu/conversations>

Recommended Citation

Garner, Anne D. (2006) "Book Reviews: Women Winners of the Alpha Sigma Nu Book Awards: Making Scholarships Visible," *Conversations on Jesuit Higher Education*: Vol. 29, Article 25.

Available at: <http://epublications.marquette.edu/conversations/vol29/iss1/25>

Book Review

WOMEN WINNERS OF THE ALPHA SIGMA NU BOOK AWARDS

Making Scholarship Visible

By Anne D. Garner

Alpha Sigma Nu (then called Alpha Sigma Tau) was founded at Marquette University in 1915. Begun as the Jesuit answer to Phi Beta Kappa, the Jesuit institutions wanted a tangible way to honor scholarship. At its inception, Alpha Sigma Tau was open to men only. In 1924, Gamma Pi Epsilon was established for women students. In 1973, the two societies merged and became Alpha Sigma Nu (ASN). The Society is now open to men and women of the twenty-eight American Jesuit colleges and universities, two theology centers, Sogang University in Korea and Regis College in Toronto.

In 1979, William McInnes, S.J., then president of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU), collaborated with the national office of Alpha Sigma Nu to develop the National Jesuit Book Award program, as a way of promoting intellectual life on Jesuit campuses. As McInnes envisioned it, the purpose of the award was to make scholarship visible on Jesuit college and university campuses.

There have been 78 winners of the Alpha Sigma Nu Award since the inception of the program in 1979. Of these, 16 have been women.

The women featured below are but

Anne D. Garner is the director of administration for the AJCU.

a few examples of the outstanding women faculty now working on Jesuit campuses and of the high quality work that they produce.

Dr. Ellen Winner
*Professor of Psychology
Boston College*

Dr. Ellen Winner received the 1997 ASN award in the sciences for her book, *Gifted Children: Myths and Realities* (Basic Books). Winner says:

I wanted to write the book because I love synthesizing (my two other books have been syntheses of a field), and I found that most of what was written about the gifted was not sufficiently based on scientific research. I wanted to pull the research findings together to discover what story would emerge.

Her book was declared controversial by the *Library Journal* for its bold recommendations on how to help gifted children cope with their extraordinary talents and adapt to living in a "normal" world. Supported by comprehensive research, her findings destroyed many of the commonplace myths surrounding gifted students, and opened up completely new possibilities of working with these special students.

I argued that moderately gifted children might not need special programs if we elevated the standards for all children, but that the extremely gifted would still need special programs. Some



Dr. Ellen Winner

people felt that I was sacrificing the moderate to the extremely gifted; I don't think I was because I said that if we elevated the standards for all, the moderately gifted would not be bored.

The book received international acclaim and has been translated into six languages including Portuguese, Chinese and Swedish.

Dr. Winner graduated magna cum laude from Radcliffe College in 1969 with a major in English literature. She studied painting at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, and received her doctoral degree in 1978 from the department of psychology and social relations at Harvard University. In 1978 she joined the faculty at Boston

College as a member of the psychology department.

Since the publication of her book, Dr. Winner has continued her research on children and the creative process. The Dana Foundation, a private, philanthropic organization with interests in neuroscience, immunology, and arts education, recently awarded Ellen Winner a two-year grant to extend her longitudinal study with Gottfried Schlaug on the effects of instrumental music training on children's brain and cognitive development.

Dr. Winner on Boston College:

I have liked being at BC because I have seen the school grow in quality, and I have seen our psychology department grow leaps and bounds in quality. BC has now become a "hot" undergraduate institution, and the graduate programs are becoming increasingly excellent. Each year our undergrads and grads are more and more impressive. ■

Dr. Amy Haddad

Director, Center for Health Policy and Ethics

*Dr. C.C. and Mabel L. Criss Endowed Chair in Health Sciences
Creighton University*

In 2003, Dr. Haddad won the Alpha Sigma Nu Jesuit Book Award in the Health Sciences Division for her book, **Health Professional and Patient Interaction, 6th Edition (HPPI)** (W. B. Saunders), which she coauthored with Ruth Purtilo, also at Creighton University. This is a book that received rave reviews, not only from the ASN book award judges, but also from *Physical Therapy*, the journal of the American Physical Therapy Association, who called HPPI "A definitive handbook of professionalism." It's a book about teamwork and collaboration, both between patient and health care professional and among the different health care professionals attending the patient. The basis of the book is respect: respect for the individual patient and respect for oneself as a



Dr. Amy Haddad

health care practitioner. In the words of Dr. Haddad:

The book, Health Professional and Patient Interaction (HPPI), uses the theme of respect throughout the book to help developing health professionals to understand this foundational element in their relationship with patients. Working at a Jesuit institution, respect falls neatly in line with cura personalis because respect cannot be applied in a generic manner. Each patient a student encounters, just like each student I encounter in the classroom or clinical setting, is unique and requires an individualized respect. We tried to focus attention on the individual needs of each patient in the book as well as encourage students to reflect on their values in this regard. I believe that the influence of this particular Jesuit value has had a clear impact on the way Dr. Purtilo and I structured the book.

Dr. Amy Haddad received her BN from Creighton University in 1975, her MSN from the University of Nebraska Medical Center in 1979 and her PhD in education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1988. She has had a very distinguished career and is a nationally known expert in ethics education, providing leadership in the development of novel methods to shape ethically competent and committed health professionals. She teaches ethics and health policy in the Schools of Pharmacy and Health Professions,

Medicine and Nursing, and has been teaching ethics in the health sciences at Creighton University Medical Center since 1984.

Dr. Haddad recently received the Robert K. Chalmers Distinguished Pharmacy Educator Award from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP). The AACP bestows this national award annually on one pharmacy educator who has made major contributions to the profession. In 2001, Haddad was named a Carnegie Scholar by the Carnegie Center for the Advancement of the Scholarship of Teaching, a prestigious honor bestowed on select individuals in higher education around the country.

I asked whether the book award had any special meaning for her.

You asked about what this award has meant to my career. I think it is especially important to recognize such scholarship because books have a direct impact on student learning in a way this is only approximated by other forms of written scholarship. Sometimes books are viewed as less important than work that results from the scholarship of discovery. Yet a text book like HPPI that is meant to be used as a learning tool in a virtual or actual classroom is important work too, worthy of recognition. The Alpha Sigma Nu Jesuit Book Award draws attention to this form of scholarship and affirms the work. I think the award is especially significant for HPPI because it is addressed to novices in health care, how they see their obligations, and most importantly, how they view their patients. I am deeply honored to have received the award, considering the caliber of the competition. ■

Dr. Mara Adelman

*Associate Professor of Communication
Seattle University*

Mara Adelman received her BA in speech communication from the University of California, Los Angeles, a master's in speech communication from California State University, San Diego and her PhD in speech communication from the University of Washington

Book Review

in Seattle. She has been a professor at Seattle University since 1994.

Dr. Adelman won the 1998 Alpha Sigma Nu Jesuit Book Award for her book, *The Fragile Community: Living Together with AIDS* (Lawrence Erlbaum Associates), coauthored with Lawrence Frey, a professor at Loyola University Chicago.

Dr. Adelman, who is trained in network analysis and ethnography, was teaching at Northwestern University and volunteering at Bonaventure House, an assisted group living facility for people with AIDS, when the Alexian Brothers, who ran the facility, discovered Adelman's background. They asked her to study the community so that they could learn how to be more responsive to the needs of the residents.

Dr. Adelman agreed and eventually went to live in the community residence. While there, she videotaped interviews with residents, seeking their views on what constitutes a community, how people enter that community, how people leave. Far from being the unfeeling scientist, Adelman had to maintain the tension between being an integral part of the group and being the unbiased researcher. In 1991, Larry Frye, a communication professor at Loyola University of Chicago, joined Adelman's project. His background in group communication and research complemented Adelman's work and together they formed a strong and successful collaboration which ultimately resulted in their book, *The Fragile Community*.

In an interview with the National Communication Association, Adelman spoke about her research.

We consciously tried to produce research that empowers residents at Bonaventure House. We also want to give the community at large and the practitioners who work with people living with AIDS a framework for understanding how people struggle and sustain community in group life environment. It seems to me that if we can understand the community process in this very fragile, tenuous, marginated community, then perhaps we can understand how we build community in our more enduring environments.



Dr. Mara Adelman

In 1994, Mara Adelman joined the faculty of Seattle University and revitalized the salon approach to address issues which are vital to today's world. Adelman invites scholars from across the country to interact with the students on themes such as "sexual justice" and "consumption and poverty," and she encourages the students to actively participate, to take on the role of the "engaged scholar." As Dr. Adelman explains it,

Being an engaged scholar is not about ivory towers and elitism – it's about a passion for ideas, challenges to mind and heart, and the openness to change life choices based on new learning.

By tackling problematic societal issues with strength and courage, and by coupling truth with compassion, these women have given form to the spirit of a Jesuit university as articulated by Fr. Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, Superior General of the Society of Jesus:

The university should be the bearer of human and ethical values; it should be the critical conscience of the society; it should illuminate with its reflection those who are addressing the problematic of the modern or postmodern society; it should be the crucible where the diverse tendencies in human thought are debated and solutions proposed. ■

WOMEN AWARD WINNERS

Jenny A. Baglivo

Incidence and Symmetry in Design and Architecture
Fairfield University

Eloise A. Buker

Politics Through a Looking Glass
Gonzaga University

Claudia Koonz

Mothers in the Fatherland
College of the Holy Cross

Laura Mahlmeister (with coauthor Katharyn May)

Comprehensive Maternity Nursing, Nursing Process and the Childbearing Family
University of San Francisco

Jo Burr Margadant

Madam le Professeur, Women Educators in the Third Republic
Santa Clara University

Carolyn Saari

The Creation of Meaning in Social Work
Loyola University Chicago

Judith Farr

The Passion of Emily Dickinson
Georgetown University

Mary E. Walsh

Moving to Nowhere: Children's Stories of Homelessness
Boston College

Ellen Winner

Gifted Children: Myths and Realities
Boston College

Mara B. Adelman (with coauthor Lawrence R. Frey of Loyola University Chicago)
The Fragile Community
Seattle University

Diane Vaughan

The Challenger Launch Decision
Boston College

Terri Jennings Peretti

In Defense of a Political Court
Santa Clara University

Sr. Callista Roy

The Roy Adaptation Model-Based Research: 25 Years of Contributions to Nursing Science
Boston College

Bette Bovit Evans

Interpreting the Free Exercise of Religion: The Constitution and American Pluralism
Creighton University

Amy Haddad and Ruth Purtilo

Health Professional and Patient Interaction
Creighton University

Rachel Crawford

Poetry, Enclosure, and the Vernacular Landscape
University of San Francisco