



INSTITUTE FOR  
WOMEN'S  
LEADERSHIP

*Consortium at Douglass College*

Examining and advancing  
women's leadership in education,  
research, politics, the workplace,  
and the world.

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ISSUE ONE

**Institute for Women's Leadership**

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THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY  
**RUTGERS**

# WOMEN'S Leadership NEWS

WOMEN GET A HOME OF THEIR OWN AT RUTGERS

## Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett Building

IS DEDICATED AT DOUGLASS

The slight drizzle could not dampen excitement as a standing-room-only crowd joined the Honorable Christine Todd Whitman, Governor of New Jersey, and four generations of Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett's family to "cut the ribbon" on the building that bears her name at Douglass College, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

The new Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett building, dedicated at a ceremony on May 5, 1998, is the home of the Institute for Women's Leadership and two of its six member organizations, the Women's Studies Program of FAS–New Brunswick, and the Center for Women and Work at the School of Management and Labor Relations. As such, it will serve as a meeting and study center with offices for women's programs, a sunny library, and a conference room for meetings, receptions, lectures, and seminars.

Construction of the three-story, 12,000-square foot building was made possible by the members of Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett's family, the J. Seward Johnson Sr. Charitable Trusts, and New Jersey's Higher Education Facilities Trust.

Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett, a Spanish major at Douglass College, was a 1946 alumna—among the first nontraditional-age students to graduate from the college, which was then called the New Jersey College for Women. At the time Crockett received her degree, she was in her forties and the mother of four. Family members

decided to honor her commitment to education with a building in her name—an academic center dedicated to the advancement of women.

The Honorable Christine Todd Whitman, speaking at the dedication ceremony, paid tribute to Crockett for her



*"We recently hosted a delegation of scholars from the Women's University in China who had just visited women's studies programs around the nation and they told us we had the best building in the U.S. and the most powerful group of women scholars they had met."*

HARRIET DAVIDSON, DIRECTOR, WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM,  
SPEAKING AT THE DEDICATION OF THE RUTH DILL JOHNSON  
CROCKETT BUILDING.

achievement and thanked family members for creating a center at Rutgers that would be devoted to the intensive study of women's leadership.

"Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett yearned for learning and she found it here at

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*The Honorable Christine Todd Whitman joined Johnson family members and Rutgers faculty and friends to dedicate the new Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett Building on the Douglass College campus.*

*Elaine Johnson Wold and husband Keith C. Wold donated a portrait of Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett for the new building dedicated to her memory.*



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Douglass,” Governor Whitman said in her remarks. “She did so at an age when many women would have given up that pursuit—after marrying and having a family. Your generosity in her name will shine for generations of women like her who will use this facility for research, education, and leadership studies. . . . Here, as at no other university in the country, students will find the most comprehensive set of resources available for examining and advancing women’s leadership.”

Mary S. Hartman, the director of the Institute for Women’s Leadership, said the new building would serve as a tribute to Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett’s “pioneering spirit” and a challenge to present and future generations.

“The building that bears Ruth’s name is a place for all of us to make a difference—first to imagine, and then to help create a world in which women are equally engaged with men in the strenuous but rewarding labor of leading,” Hartman said.



*J. Seward Johnson, Jr., son of Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett, with his aunt Diana Douglas Darrid.*

Hartman recognized Gretchen Wittenborn Johnson (Douglass, ’63) and her husband James L. Johnson for their leadership in inspiring the special family legacy. She also recognized members of Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett’s family in attendance, including: daughter, Elaine Johnson Wold and her husband, Keith; son, J. Seward Johnson, Jr., and his wife, Joyce; daughter, Diana Firestone and her husband, Bertram; sister, Diana Dill Douglas Darrid; niece by marriage, Betty Wold Johnson; son-in-law, Martin Richards, the widowed husband of Crockett’s elder daughter Mary Lea; as well as nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Family members filled three entire rows in the new conference room and, throughout the dedication ceremony, provided anecdotes and remembrances of their sister, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

In an emotional statement, Diana Dill Douglas Darrid, Crockett’s sister and the mother of actor Michael Douglas, said, “Ruth had a genius for living life to the fullest. I know she’d be thrilled at this building and its potential for opening opportunities for women. This is her day and today she lives on.”

Gretchen Johnson, who spearheaded the gifts for the family, said, “I’m delighted the family could do this together. Ruth would be laughing at how fun the party was and pleased to have her friends and family all celebrating her today.” Gretchen Johnson

also chaired the 75th Anniversary Campaign for Douglass College, conducted by the Associate Alumnae of Douglass College, to raise support for priority programs of the college.

With Crockett’s great-granddaughter in his arms, grandson, Keith C. Wold, Jr., said, “She loved to read aloud to her grandchildren and I can still hear her voice today. She lit a light in my imagination that illuminates my whole life.”

The May 5th dedication of the new building turned Ryders Lane into what could informally be known as “Women’s Lane” at Rutgers, since Ryders Lane is the home of the Institute for Women’s Leadership (IWL) and five members of the IWL consortium of women’s programs. The Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett Building, at 162 Ryders Lane, houses the staff of the IWL, the Center for Women and Work, and the Women’s Studies Program. Next door, 160 Ryders Lane houses the Institute for Research on Women and the Center for Women’s Global Leadership. The Center for the American Woman and Politics is at 191 Ryders Lane and all of these groups are on the campus of the sixth member of the IWL consortium, Douglass College, the nation’s largest college for women.

# IWL Launches Scholars Program

IN WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP AND SOCIAL CHANGE

In September, women undergraduates of Rutgers University became the first participants enrolled in the IWL Leadership Scholars Program in Women's Leadership and Social Change.

The new IWL Leadership Scholars Program is an interdisciplinary experience that prepares undergraduates to be informed, innovative, and socially responsible leaders. As part of the program, the leadership scholars will explore women's influence and contributions to social change by studying different leadership models—from leadership in the United Nations and the U.S. Congress to leadership in community soup kitchens, research laboratories, corporate board rooms, and the family.

"Douglass College students are eager to expand their leadership horizons," said Barbara Shailor, dean of Douglass College. "The new IWL Leadership Scholars Program will provide both the academic foundation and the practical experience to meet this need."

The curriculum, offered under the auspices of the Women's Studies Program, consists of courses relating to the students' chosen fields, a seminar, and a practicum that includes both an internship and a social-action project. This three-part curriculum allows Leadership Scholars to study and analyze models of leadership, in both classroom and experiential settings, as a way to understand how different types of institutions—and different models of leadership—encourage or inhibit innovation and participation.

All IWL Leadership Scholars are automatically eligible for the recently established Governor's Leadership Scholarship Award—a \$1,500 scholarship to support an internship or social action project.

Support for the development of the IWL Leadership Scholars Program was provided by gifts from Albert and Ruth Morgan Kurtz (Douglass '45) through the Associate

Alumnae of Douglass College. Operational support to launch the first year of the program was provided in part by the Adelaide Zagoren Leadership Program Endowment at the Associate Alumnae of Douglass College. For information about the program or to support student participation, contact the Institute for Women's Leadership: 732/932-1463.

#### The 1998 IWL Leadership Scholars are:

**Alakee Bethea**, '01, Communication; **Sara Bluhm**, '00, Political Science; **Jessica Greenstone**, '00, Women's Studies; **Amanda Hoffman**, '01, Undeclared; **Heather Lett**, '99, Visual Arts; **Mary Marchetta**, '99, Biology; **Vivian Nwosu**, '00, Biochemistry; **Jan Oosting**, '01, Undeclared; **Kristy Perez**, '00, Spanish/English; **Jessica Roberts**, '01, Political Science; **Abigail Skillman**, '01, Psychology/Women's Studies; **Fumi Sugo**, '01, Economics/Women's Studies.

## *see how she runs...*

"READY TO RUN" ENCOURAGES WOMEN TO SEEK PUBLIC OFFICE

The Center for the American Woman and Politics (CAWP) of the Eagleton Institute of Politics and the Institute for Women's Leadership have announced the launching of "Ready to Run," a jointly sponsored project to inspire women in New Jersey to take the step of running for office, particularly at the state legislative level.

Across the country, women continue to be underrepresented in policy-making bodies. Women hold only a handful of seats in the U.S. Congress and less than a quarter of state legislative seats. "Ready to Run" will encourage women leaders to run for public office and position themselves for appointments and it will urge women currently serving in elected office to run for higher office.

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## women's human rights

### UDHR 50th anniversary is centerpiece of 1998 Global Campaign

The Center for Women's Global Leadership is currently coordinating "Celebrate and Demand: 1998 Global Campaign for Women's Human Rights," a worldwide public education and advocacy effort to refocus international attention on women's human rights on the 50th anniversary of the adoption by the United Nations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

The 1998 Global Campaign is a year-long series of coordinated events staged around the world about women's human rights. The overall theme of the campaign is to celebrate the progress that has been made on women's human rights at world conferences and at national levels, while also demanding that the world act immediately and decisively to prevent the continuing violations of women's human rights.

To encourage widespread participation, the Global Center has developed a Take Action Kit with information about women's human rights, two postcards for advocacy mailings, suggestions for local activities, a poster, and a list of "Demands and Questions about Women's Human Rights on the 50th Anniversary of the UDHR." Information is also available on the web at: [www.rci.rutgers.edu/~cwgl/humanrights/campaign\\_right.html](http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~cwgl/humanrights/campaign_right.html).

The "16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence" (Nov 25–Dec 10, 1998) will close the campaign by highlighting the role of grassroots, women's antiviolen- ce workers as human rights defenders. The campaign will culminate on December 10,

1998, when the UN General Assembly will hold a one-day plenary to commemorate the adoption of the UDHR. During this time period, the Global Campaign will hold a large-scale public event, coordinated

with local actions, and deliver the results to the United Nations on December 10.

For more information, call the Center for Women's Global Leadership at 732/932-8782.

WOMEN "TALKING LEADERSHIP" IN SPRING 1999

## Powerful Women Interviewed in New Book

*Talking Leadership: Conversations with Powerful Women* (Rutgers Press, 1999) is the institute's first signature publication; a book of interviews with thirteen prominent women leaders that explores why and how women lead.

The book is organized as conversations with successful women "practitioners" of leadership from a variety of fields, ranging from philanthropy and politics to business and academia. While the women represent a range of backgrounds and expertise, they are united by a commitment to social change that includes improving women's lives, options, and opportunities.

The conversations not only provide personal anecdotes and stories of struggle and success, but also address ideas about what it takes to be a leader and what it means to be a woman and a leader at this moment in history.

Many of the women in the book are "firsts" in their fields, and each is aware that she occupies space in her work life in which her womanhood sets her apart—often in uncomfortable ways. The conversations, conducted by institute directors, capture for readers a variety of images, experiences, approaches, and insights about how far women have come in leadership at the close of the twentieth century—and an idea of how far they have to go. The thirteen women leaders are:

**Peggy Antrobus**, prize-winning economist; **Susan Berresford**, president, Ford Foundation; **Mildred Dresselhaus**, physicist, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; **Antonia Hernandez**, president and general counsel, Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund; **bell hooks**, writer and cultural critic; **Lois Juliber**, executive, Colgate-Palmolive Company; **Karen Nussbaum**, founder of "9 to 5" and director, Working Women's Department; **Jacqueline Pitanguy**, former president, Brazil's National Council for Women's Rights; **Anna Quindlen**, author and Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist; **Nafis Sadik**, executive director, United Nations Populations Fund; **Patricia Schroeder**, former congresswoman; **Ruth Simmons**, president, Smith College; and New Jersey Governor **Christine Todd Whitman**.

*Talking Leadership* is edited and introduced by Mary S. Hartman, the director of the Institute for Women's Leadership and a professor at Rutgers University. To order *Talking Leadership*, call: 732/445-7762, ext. 635, or 800/446-9323.

IRW SEMINAR A POWERFUL SUCCESS

## Feminist scholars examine “Women in the Public Sphere: Power, Practice, and Agency”

Rutgers professors and graduate scholars are working to develop an exciting new research field focusing on women's public activities. “Women in the Public Sphere: Power, Practice, and Agency,” the first Rutgers University-funded interdisciplinary feminist seminar, concluded its inaugural year as a “resounding success” according to Marianne DeKoven, seminar director and former director of the Institute for Research on Women at Rutgers.

Over the course of the year, seminar participants read and discussed many texts from a variety of disciplines relating to the theme and presented their works-in-progress at sessions open to the public.

“The opportunity to discuss important issues across disciplines and to engage in debate and deliberation in a sustained way was thrilling for me,” said seminar participant Linda Steiner, associate professor of Journalism and Mass Media, Rutgers.

The seminar culminated in a dynamic day-long conference on May 1, called “Gender and Global Public Cultures: Sites of Agency and Resistance.” Faye Wattleton, the president of the Center for Gender Equality and the former president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, gave the keynote address entitled “Life on the Line: Women and Power in the Public Sphere.” She described the critical role of women in shaping current policy debates to include additional perspectives on women and families.

“Women in the Public Sphere” is a two-year topic. In 1998-99, the seminar will build on this initial focus, with an emphasis on “Modes of Knowledge and Action.” A new group of Rutgers outstanding scholars has been selected to participate under the leadership of Professor Bonnie G. Smith, new director of the Institute for Research on Women. Support for the second year of the seminar is provided by Rutgers University and a gift from the J. Seward Johnson Sr. Charitable Trusts.



*Faye Wattleton, president, Center for Gender Equality.*

### *see how she runs...*

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The first session of “Ready to Run” will be a one-day invitational conference on December 11, 1998, at the Hyatt Regency in New Brunswick. The participants—120 potential office seekers—will be invited from a list compiled by the leadership of women's organizations and “Ready to Run's” advisory committee.

The conference's workshop sessions include: raising money for women's campaigns, working within the county party system, strategies on how to run, and working with the media and moving from the private to the public sector. Workshops will be led by senior elected and appointed leaders, party officials, campaign consultants, and PAC representatives. To sponsor or to participate in “Ready to Run,” call Susan Nemeth at 732/932-9384, ext. 229.

The honorary co-chairs of “Ready to Run” include the six highest-ranking women elected officials in New Jersey: The Honorable Christine Todd Whitman, the first woman governor of New Jersey; Marge Roukema, the only woman on New Jersey's U.S. Congressional delegation; and Diane Allen, Martha Bark, Wynona Lipman, and Shirley Turner—all four of New Jersey's women state senators.

# *in touch with women's leadership*

HOW TO REACH CONSORTIUM MEMBERS OF THE INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP

The Institute for Women's Leadership and the member units are supported by grants, private donations, and Rutgers University. For information about programs or to find out how to support the IWL, or any of the member units, please contact:

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