



W.I.R.E

Women's Intra — Campus Resource Exchange — Fall 2002

WOMEN'S  
CENTER  
OREGON STATE  
UNIVERSITY

# Kidder — The Woman and the Hall

By Tara Moore

Over a century ago, Ida Kidder led a life that brought her from New York to Oregon, and had a presence that can still be felt in Corvallis today.

To the people she met, Kidder was more than a librarian, she was "Mother Kidder."

Ida Angeline Clarke was born on June 30, 1857, in Auburn, New York. She graduated from the high school in Waverly at the age of 20, and shortly afterwards became a primary teacher there. Nine years later, she enrolled at the New York State College for Teachers. She then became a teacher of Natural Sciences and ultimately the principal of the high school in Medina, New York. Her teaching career ended at the age of 39, when she married Lorenzo Kidder.

Little is known about her married life, but it is believed that she and her husband did not have children, and that Kidder was a widow when she enrolled in the University of Illinois Library School in 1905.

After her graduation the following year, Kidder packed up and traveled west to become a library organizer in

Washington and Oregon until the Oregon State Library Commission could no longer afford to pay Kidder for her field work. By that time she had said, "[I am] so fond of this far west that I do not want to leave it."

In the spring of 1908, the president of Oregon Agriculture College (later changed to OSU) decided to appoint the school's first professionally trained librarian, and he had his sights set on Kidder for the job.

When she arrived at OAC, the library's 4,264 volumes and 10,000 pamphlets and bulletins were housed in two-thirds of Benton's second floor. Under Kidder's guidance, a new library building was constructed to house the 35,814 volumes and 40,000 pamphlets and bulletins that the library collection had grown to include.

During Kidder's twelve years at OAC, she touched the lives of many students, most of whom she met during their

required freshmen Library Practice Course.

Kidder's efforts to connect with

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Ida Kidder was Oregon Agriculture College's librarian from 1908 to 1920.

## Something for Everyone at the Women's Center

By Beth Rietveld

Assistant Director for Student Involvement

Dear OSU Students and Colleagues:

I know that many of you who are reading this are strong supporters and contributors to the Women's Center at Oregon State. I also know that others of you have never heard of the Women's Center and are wondering what exactly it is that I'm talking about.

The first thing you need to know is that students, faculty and staff can come here with just about any question and we will try to find an answer within 24 hours (without sending you to 4 or 5 other offices).

Usually we can answer your question within minutes. Our resource files are extensive and whether you want information about eating disorders or birth control, adoption or

scholarships...our friendly student staff members can often times help you immediately.

Second, men should understand that they are welcome at the Women's Center. I have learned

over the years that there are many wonderful, supportive men who care about the women in their life. I also understand that men have questions about a wide range of issues that we can likely provide help with.

Third, we are not a crisis center.

Nevertheless, we have helped many students, staff and community members in crisis situations. We can make referrals, provide resources



## Resource Files; Not Just an Attractive Gray Cabinet

By Alexandra Moore

The Women's Center's resource files are a great means to find needed information. In my experience as a Latina student and mother of a two year old, I have found the Women's Center to be a source of support and empowerment. When it came to childcare, it was hard for me to find one place that had all of the information or the childcare providers in our area. The Women's Center had everything that I needed in one of their resource files.

In the childcare folder was a list of childcare services in our area with care provider's names and phone numbers. I was even able to use the telephone at the Women's Center to make the calls.

It is my hope that the OSU student body and the Corvallis community will use these resources, and not be afraid to ask questions. At the Women's Center, all will find a safe

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### Jennifer's Top 10 New Book Recommendations

Silent Spring  
by Rachel Carson  
Fertile Ground  
by Irene Diamond  
Women by Annie Leibovitz  
Blood, Bread, and Poetry  
by Adrienne Rich  
Margaret Mead Made Me Gay  
by Esther Norton  
Ophelia Speaks  
by Sara Shandler  
Ophelia's Mom  
by Nina Shandler  
The Selected Poems of Nikki Giovanni by Nikki Giovanni  
The Body Project: An Intimate History of American Girls  
by Joan Jacobs Brumberg  
The Survivor's Guide to Sex: How to Have an Empowered Sex Life After Childhood Sexual Abuse by Staci Haines

## Books, Books Everywhere!

By Jennifer Almquist

For an avid reader and self-proclaimed lover of books, there is no better way to spend an afternoon than in a bookstore. Multiply the bookstore experience by three and you have one incredibly content individual! As spring term ended, throngs of students rushed off for summer vacation while I took my wish list of books and headed to local bookstores to recruit new additions to the Women's Center library. By the end of three trips, the Women's Center library had close to 50 new additions, putting our grand total at over 1,300 books. The list of new books is extensive, covering topics from the history of breast cancer to feminist science studies to lesbian parenting.

Of course, amidst the pile of books there are two that I am particularly proud to have added to the Women's Center collection. As I begin my ambitious pursuit of an MAIS degree in Women Studies, I am particularly fascinated with the feminist theory known as Ecofeminism. One leading ecofeminist is right down the road at University of Oregon. Irene Diamond has written numerous works detailing her belief, and that of many ecofeminists, that the struggle to empower women is inextricably linked with the struggle to save the planet. In one new Women's Center addition, *Fertile Ground*, Diamond explores the interconnectedness of women and the earth.

Yet many of the links between feminism and ecology discussed in modern books, classrooms, and research have been undoubtedly influenced by the landmark environmentalist, Rachel Carson. I am particularly excited about the procurement of her influential work *Silent Spring*, for her research into the dangers of chemical usage is timeless. Indeed her work also serves as a haunting, posthumous warning of the future of our planet unless substantial moves are made to be better stewards of our environment.

So, I encourage you to stop by the Women's Center and peruse our library. You might just find yourself content for hours curled up on one of our comfy couches with an intriguing book selection of your own!

### Resource Files (from Page 1)

place where even my two year-old could comfortably take a break.

In each file there are articles, local and national contact information, and a list of websites that could be of help.

The resource files have a variety of topics, and range from adoption, alcoholism, and bisexuality to domestic violence, international women, sexual harassment, women and health, and women and graduate school, among others.

The resource files cabinet is open to all and is located in the Women's Center. All of the folders are updated regularly by the center's staff members, volunteers, and interns.

The handy gray cabinet is organized in alphabetical order to make locating the sought after information that much easier.

### A Graduate Women's Network to be formed at OSU!

Modeled after the Faculty Women's Network, the idea for a Graduate Women's Network (GWN) came out of the collaborative efforts of: Beth Rietveld, OSU Women's Center; Jennifer Almquist, Women's Center employee and a new graduate student; Sally Francis, Dean of the Graduate School; and the Women's Center Advisory Committee.

The goal of the GWN is to be an organization formed by and for female graduate students to foster community, provide a forum for open discussion, and to present programs of interest to graduate women. The GWN will have a Fall 2002 kick off reception at the home of President and Les Risser on Wednesday, October 16, 2002 from 4:30-6 p.m. All new and returning female graduate students are invited to attend.

### Zapoteca Weaver to Give Presentation in October

Award winning Zapoteca weaver Violeta Vasquez, from Teotitlan del Valle, Oaxaca, Mexico will be at the OSU Women's Center on Thursday, October 3rd from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. with a presentation at noon.

Born into a family of weavers in 1982, Violeta began to weave at 13 years old. Due to the difficulty of selling these creations, she was forced to drop out of school at 14. It is now Violeta's goal to earn enough money on this trip to Oregon to enable her to resume her studies when she returns to Oaxaca.

While at the Women's Center, Violeta intends to



share the significant contributions that young indigenous people have made to their cultures from her perception as an indigenous woman. She will give a weaving demonstration.

## Poll of the Term

By Tara Moore

The Women's Center staff wanted to find out what the average OSU community member knew about their Women's Center so I went and found out:

*There have been a few lunch-time presentations that I have attended. While I was there, I found the Women's Center to be a "good resource, and I enjoyed the presentation..."* – Gitte Johnson,

OSU staff member  
*I've been here over a year, and have never actually been to the Women's Center, but I would think that the primary purpose of the center is as a "support group for females."* – Violeta Gordillo, senior in Zoology

*Last year, I attended a talk on homosexuals and the Bible, and I think of the Women's Center simply "as a place for women to*

**"The Women's  
Center was the  
perfect place,"**

**Jing Wu**

*go."* – Mike Riffle, Construction Engineering senior

I found that some people confused the Women's Center with the Women's Building:

*"I picked my boyfriend up from there one night after a dance class."* – Kendra Hull, Agriculture senior

While others never noticed the building:

*"I guess I never realized that*

*there was a building back there."* – Todd Ellingson, graduate student

There were others who not only knew of the Women's Center, but also used the space often:

*While I was teaching Chinese, last year, I needed to move the class to a space where we had access to a kitchen, and use the television and VCR, "the Women's Center was the perfect place."* – Jing Wu, graduate student

**Kidder** (from Page 1)

students were well received. An international student from India once said, "She was wonderful. She opened the world to me. She showed me all the world akin."

Like many college librarians of her time, Kidder lived and worked on campus. From her room in Waldo Hall she connected with students on a personal level during the readings she gave, or the time she spent assisting them with their studies. With as much support as Kidder gave the students, it was not long before they deemed her their "Mother Kidder."

As her work at the library grew, so did her staff. In 1911, she recruited Lucy Lewis, a classmate from their days at the library school, to be her assistant librarian. At the time, Kidder was in her mid-fifties and had begun to show signs of aging. She suffered from arthritis and a cardiac ailment, which made it difficult for her to walk. She refused to alter her life, so Kidder obtained an electric wicker cart to shuttle herself from her home in Waldo Hall to the library.

The students were so fasci-

nated by her cart that within a few weeks of its 1917 appearance, The Barometer held a contest to name it. An early favorite in the competition was "Kidder Car," but when Kidder hand selected the winning entry, therefore naming the cart the "Wicker Mobile," it was The Barometer's own editor William James O'Neill who claimed the prize of a ride in the "Wicker Mobile" with Kidder by his side.



Kidder in her Wicker car, as she appeared in the 1917 Oregon Agriculture College Year Book.

After the appearance of the wicker car, Kidder refused to slow down. During the summer of 1918, she served as the hospital librarian at Washington's Camp Lewis.

Kidder was delighted to see "how [the soldiers] would brighten up and take new heart of courage at the appearance of a lame, gray-haired woman, who came to them with a motherly

spirit in her heart."

She quickly decided, "In most cases [the soldiers] needed a mother as much as a doctor."

The soldiers must have agreed with her, because she soon became their "Mother Kidder" as well.

Upon her return to OAC, she began to exchange letters with the soldiers from Camp Lewis.

Enough envelopes came through the post office for "Mother Kidder" that a letter mailed from France simply addressed to "Mother Kidder, Oregon" reached her in Corvallis.

A soldier stationed in France wrote, "Dear Mother...don't you dare call yourself 'old.' That applies only to people who have ceased to be interesting...not to such dynamos of kindness, sympathy and understanding as you. Mother, you will never get old for the companionship of your boys and girls and the immortals that live on your bookshelves has endowed you with a personality that defies the March of Time."

Despite the soldier's belief that Kidder would not age, it was only a matter of time before her body

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**Other OSU Buildings that are Named After Women:**

**Azalea House** — named for Azalea Sager, a state Home Economics extension leader.

**Bates Hall** — for Mercedes Bates, an OSU graduate who was General Mills' "Betty Crocker" for several years.

**Callahan** — named so after Ida Burnett Callahan, an early English instructor and "Dean of Women."

**Dawes House** — named after the foreign language instructor Melissa Martin Dawes.

**Dixon Recreation Center** — in honor of Jim and Jeanette Dixon, both were physical education professors for many years.

**Halsell Hall** — named after the first African-American student to graduate from OAC, Carrie (Halsell) Ward.

**Heckart Lodge** — in honor of a long time Corvallis boarding house operator, Zelia Heckart.

**MCS Potts-Guin Library** — named after the Hatfield Marine Science Center librarian Marilyn Potts-Guin.

**Milam Hall** — after Ava Milam, who laid the foundation for the College of Home Economics.

**Plageman Student Health Building** — in honor of one of the early women staff members in the old student health building.

**Richardson Hall** — Patricia Richardson donated the money upon her death.

**Sackett Hall** — after Beatrice Sackett, a member of the State Board of Education.

**Snell Hall** — after the first leader in Home Economics at OSU, Margrett Snell.

**Valley Gymnastics Center** — for Gladys Valley, a donor and supporter of Women's Gymnastics.

**Valley Library and Valley Football Center** — both are named for the Valley family, which Gladys and her daughter Sunny were important parts of the decision making process.

**Waldo Hall** — for Clara Waldo, a member of the State Board of Education.

**Women's Building**

**Rietveld** (from Page 1)

and get you directly to caring people who can make a difference in your life.

So why is there a Women's Center? As long as sexual discrimination exists, as long as relationship violence happens, as long as there are inequities of any kind both inside and outside the classroom, there will be a need for a Women's Center.

You are probably saying to yourself, "Why would I ever want to come inside the Women's Center? What's in it for me?" You can always find a friendly environment, a place to study or hang out between classes, a computer to work on, a kitchen to prepare your lunch, a safe space to be yourself,

a library to browse through (or to check out books for 3 weeks), a copier (5 cents a copy), answers to your questions, an educational program, resources for your term papers, an activism project, internship or volunteer opportunity, resources for your Women Studies classes, a place to blow off steam, a place to find a sympathetic ear (and often a shoulder to cry on), and a caring and compassionate friend.

Here are just a few of the reasons why people have come to the Women's Center this year: At least one student needed information about emergency contraception. A Resident Advisor had a

student on her floor that had an eating disorder and wanted to know how to get the student to go for help. A classified staff member was dealing with relationship violence at home. Two incoming student parents were looking for childcare information. Several students were looking for scholarship and financial aid information. A male felt he was being unjustly accused of sexual harassment. A faculty member was looking for videos on gender issues.

Many people just wander in and say, "I didn't know this place was here! What a wonderful space to have on campus."

**"Best of all:  
we are YOUR  
Women's  
Center, your  
home away  
from home."**

I wish there had been a Women's Center available to me when I was a student at the University of Illinois. There are presently over 350 Women's Centers across the country at public universities, private colleges and community colleges. We are VERY privileged to have one of the oldest Women's Centers in the country and one of the best facilities I have seen in my travels to other campuses. Best of all: we are YOUR Women's Center, your home away from home. Please come and visit us and see how we can make a difference in your life, or how you can make a difference on our campus by getting involved!!

**Beth Rietveld  
OSU Women's Center**

**Kidder** (from Page 3)

gave out. In the early hours of Feb. 29, 1920, Kidder died as a result of a brain hemorrhage.

Her death coincided with an influenza epidemic, which prevented all public gatherings from occurring. At the request of the students, the casket remained in the main hall of the library the morning of March 2, 1920 while the funeral itself was held on the steps. To allow students to pay

their respects to her in their own time, all classes between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. were canceled.

During her life, Kidder inspired and touched the lives of many students, staff, and community members. According to the March 2, 1920 edition of the Daily Gazette-Times, many of these people expressed their sadness for Kidder's passing with flowers: "the casket practically buried in wreaths and flowers

showered upon her by loving friends and sororities and fraternities in their last effort to express their affection and appreciation of the wonderful woman who had been friend and mother to them all."

The students expressed their emotions towards the death of "Mother Kidder" in their own way. The Barometer printed an editorial written shortly after her passing that concluded, "During the years that 'Mother' Kidder

lived and worked among us, she gave her life to our interests because she loved us. In return for that love, let our feelings of sadness be intermingled with thankfulness that ours was the privilege of knowing such a noble woman."

During her life, one of Ida Kidder's greatest accomplishments was the growth of the OAC library and the creation of a library building. The same building that held her body during the 1920 funeral still bears her name today.



Women's Center Staff

## OSU Women's Center

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Tara Moore



The Women's Center

# Calendar of Events for October

**3rd...Zapoteca weaving demonstration** with Violeta Vasquex Gutierrez, from 11-3 p.m.

**14th...Services for Students with Disabilities**, from 1-2 p.m. sponsored by ASOSU Disabilities Affairs Task Force Director, Gina Jackson.

**16th...Graduate Women's Network (GWN) Fall 2002 Kick Off Reception** at the home of President and

Les Risser, from 4:30-6 p.m. All new and returning female graduate students are invited.

**21st...History of Feminine Hygiene Products in the US**, from 3-4 p.m. Teresa Ashford will present a discussion on various advertisements and highlight how the industry has helped to shape the way women view menstruation.

**22nd...In Her Shoes**, "A simulation to help participants understand the ups and downs a battered woman experiences over the course of many years," presented by CARDV, from 3-4 p.m.

**24th...Verbal and Emotional Abuse**, 3 to 4 p.m. This program is put on by CARDV.

**30th...Domestic Violence in Same**

**Sex Relationships**, Paige Warner, UCPS.

**October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Please call 737-3186 for additional events.**

*All events are held at the Women's Center unless otherwise specified. The Women's Center is wheelchair accessible. For more information please call the Women's Center at (541) 737-3186.*

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