

March 2nd Convocation

Lessons from the Second Wave of Feminism

By Brianna Holtmeier

On March 2nd, Lori Sturdevant, a Minnesota Star Tribune editorial columnist, came to Concordia to discuss the waves of feminism that have swept through Minnesota. Sturdevant has written for the Star Tribune since 1975, focusing on state government and politics. She has been involved with the production of ten books, including *Her Honor: Rosalie Wahl* and the Minnesota Women's Movement. Sturdevant lectured about how Rosalie Wahl was an influential member of the second wave of feminism in Minnesota. The first wave occurred during 1848–1928, where women's suffrage was fought for and finally ratified into the U.S. Constitution in the 19th Amendment. This is the wave that most commonly comes to mind when the words, "women's rights" are heard. However, the 19th Amendment did not solve all of the gender inequalities in society.

During the 1940s, World War II transferred men from their jobs into the military. Women filled in the gaps left in the workplace, and when the war ended, the women were expected to give the jobs back to the men and fall back into the expected role of housewife. However, after their baby boomer children were grown and gone, these women wanted to once again join the workforce. This sparked the second wave of women's rights during 1965–1970. The focus of this movement was to open doors to jobs for women and give them the ability to be full-fledged members of society. This wave reached its crest in 1995. Now that these doors have been opened to women, many think that a third movement of women's rights is coming to resolve what happens inside those doors.

Sturdevant said Wahl was "part of the generation of women who yearned for more opportunity and did something about it." Wahl was born in 1924 and had a tragic childhood. At age eight, she saw her grandfather and younger brother ran over by a train in front of

her eyes. There was no recompense from the train accident because lawyers continuously told her grandmother that there was no good opportunity for a civil law suit against the railroad company. Experiencing this injustice prompted her to go to law school at William Mitchell while raising her five children. Rosalie Wahl was one of two women in her class who graduated in 1967. She returned to teach at William Mitchell College of Law and became a nationally renowned leader in the clinical legal education movement. Minnesota's Governor Rudy Perpich vowed to open doors of opportunity for women. Keeping his word, Governor Perpich appointed Rosalie Wahl as the first female justice on the Minnesota Supreme Court in 1977. She won the election in 1978 with 57% of the vote. Wahl focused on "advocating for justice from the bottom up." She organized the Gender Fairness task force in 1989 and worked on the 1993 Racial Bias Task force, earning the title of "the face of justice in Minnesota." Despite the progress, the gender equality movement is far from finished. This expected third wave will focus on giving ensuring women are paid based on their credentials and qualifications, instead of lower pay simply because they are female. The common statistic says that women, with the same job and education level, are paid an average of 79% of what their male coworkers are paid. To ensure advancement, Sturdevant implores the third wave to learn from Wahl that "optimism is an act of will, it takes work to sustain idealism, and putting women in leadership posts is necessary, but not sufficient to affect change." Sturdevant asserts that "we should also acknowledge there is a shared responsibility to advance equity and each citizen to let their God given gifts flourish."

February 17th Convocation

By Brianna Holtmeier

At Concordia, students come from diverse backgrounds and cultures. Applying the promise statement to each unique individual may take a different spin for everyone. Concordia University promises that on its campus, "Lutheran convictions inform intellectual inquiry and academic pursuits." Four panelists from the Concordia community took the stage to give personal statements about what this phrase means to them.

Rev. Dr. David Lumpp Th.D., kicked off the convocation by speaking about how "this Christian Gospel is [Concordia's] most important identifying characteristic." The news found in the Bible is applicable to all people, not only Christians. Concordia's mission is not only to ensure that students find good jobs one day, but also to instill a desire to serve others out of love for God.

Dr. Oluwatovin Akinde Fakuajo was the first panelist to speak about what Concordia's promise means to her. She grew up in Nigeria attending church from an early age and her faith journey has led her to work at CSP as a faculty member in the Graduate Teacher Education Program. Dr. Akinde Fakuaj spoke about how the mission statement highlights "Freedom in Christ to serve our neighbor and the world God has made." She enjoys seeing how Concordia's diverse community "encourages thoughtful and informed discussions of beliefs" with others.

Mohammed Aldossary, Senior, came to Concordia from Saudi Arabia and originally did not plan on staying. His reasoning for continuing his education at CSP was that "something was telling him to stay here; it was home." He was also curious about the similarities between Christianity and his religion, Islam. This prompted him to purchase Christian books in Arabic and English to learn more. Aldossary also mentioned how he has found that "religious harmony and tolerance are core principles at Concordia," and "I have seen many professors use Lutheran convictions to stimulate studies."

Ben Meyer, Sophomore, was a panelist at the convocation who spoke about growing up as the son of a pastor. "Everyone assumes they know pastor's kids. But they never ask what it is like." He enjoys the fact that he has an "innate knowledge of Lutheranism," but he felt that if he made poor decisions, they reflected on his father as a pastor. However, he keeps in mind that, "God is there even when I mess up and forgives me in spite of myself."

Lana Huberty spoke about how "fortunate [she] is to work at a faith based institution."

Even at secular workplaces, loving others can bring a vocational peace to any job. Concordia aspires to provide an environment where students can learn what this promise statement means to each individual on campus.