

Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning
47th Annual Conference
Ft. Worth, Texas
November 9-12, 2006

Remarks on the Acceptance of the 2006 Margarita McCoy Award
Patricia Baron Pollak

The Margarita McCoy Award recognizes someone who has made a substantial contribution to advancing the lives of women in academic planning.

I am delighted that the Award Committee found me fitting the criteria of this Award that honors the first female professor of planning in the U.S.

THANK YOU so very much.

I want to thank so many of you for your friendship, your collegueship, your mentoring, and your support. I especially want to thank my dear friend and role model Marcia Marker Feld for being all of these things and more.

I want to thank all of you here at ACSP. I very much appreciate the opportunity to be a part of this organization, especially at this time of phenomenal growth and change. Special thanks to Sandi Rosenbloom who, as ACSP President developed the conference track system, and in so doing gave me the opportunity to Chair the Housing and Community Development track and also appointed me Chair of the new Institutional Governance Committee. Thanks also to the ACSP membership for approving the proposed by-laws which, while preserving the 'coalition-of-units' membership structure, cemented the notion of individual roles in ACSP for faculty of all ranks and administrative posts. And thanks to Bruce Stiftel and Tom Cook, ACSP President and Secretary-Treasurer respectively, who oversaw that the new by-laws became the foundation of ACSP's incorporation and in so doing, assured that ACSP would continue to have an open, fair, and knowable governance process that provides places for and permits individual women faculty to participate in ACSP decisions and activities.

I want to thank you for electing me to the Governing Board and to thank the four Presidents who succeeded Sandi: Wim Wiewel, Bruce Stiftel, Chris Silver, and Mickey Lauria for their continued support.

Through the growth and change in ACSP, many of us have looked for opportunities, been creative, and worked hard to fill gaps so that ACSP, as an organization, would serve and support the development, recruitment, retention, promotion and intellectual and personal well-being of women planning faculty. Through these efforts, the number of women and their roles in academic planning has certainly grown. At first there was Margarita McCoy. And then there were a few more. Genie Birch, Judith Innes, Sandi Rosenbloom, Marcia Marker Feld, Margot Garcia, and my dear friend and colleague the late Marsha Ritzdorf were among them. It was only as recent as February, 1987, that most of the women in ACSP—20 of us! prepared, signed, and presented a petition to form the Faculty Women's Interest Group, affectionately known as FWIG.

Since then, there have been at least 8 FWIG Presidents. The first was Marcia Marker Feld. She was succeeded by Marcia Ritzdorf, Nancey Green Leigh, Deborah Howe, Margot Garcia, Barbara Becker, me, and now Sanda Kaufman. (I hope those I inadvertently omitted will forgive me the memory lapse.) These women, too, are among those who, through various roles in ACSP, have served for so many of us as role models, mentors, supporters and friends.

Over the years FWIG itself has grown and matured. During Nancey Green Leigh's term we wrote and adopted by-laws. Under Barbara Becker's leadership, the FWIG luncheon developed from a business meeting with a meal to what is now, at least, the second best annual event at ACSP! This year 160 of us got together to meet, network, talk, and enjoy an hour and a meal with our colleagues. The "FWIG luncheon" is unarguably a significant part of the ACSP annual conference for many of us.

The FWIG e-list now has about 200 subscribers (not much news, but the opportunity is there), there is a new web-site thanks to President Sanda Kaufman and FWIG sponsors two major ACSP Awards: the Margarita McCoy Award and the Marcia Marker Feld Award. In memory of Marsha Ritzdorf, FWIG sponsors the Women's Professional Skills Development Workshop at the ACSP conference, in her name. And, also in memory of Marsha, those of you who have already contributed know that FWIG initiated an endowment at Clemson University to help support a diverse planning student body. I appreciate Barry Nocks' assistance with that. I also want to thank you all for your good natured humor and support with FWIGware. I'm sure a middle of the night fire drill and a peek in the gym here at the conference would reveal many fashionistas in FWIG shorts and shirts! You have been great sports and supporters of FWIG with that.

Over the years a few women have been elected President of ACSP. Namely, Genie Birch, Catherine Ross and Sandi Rosenbloom. But no one lately. It *is* high time for another. And, over the years women have received ACSP Awards. There also have been several women planning faculty members who have served as editors of JPER, including the current two Karens—Christensen and Chapple. And women have served in the exhausting capacity of Conference Chair.

It certainly seems that in recent years the opportunities, roles, and models for women within ACSP have grown. And, in part, through ACSP's efforts, examples, programs and opportunities, etc. so have the opportunities and well-being of women faculty grown in university planning departments.

The competence, intellect, skills and abilities of our colleagues are not in question. But, there is still a long way to go in the areas of *genuine* opportunity, *true* equity, *sincere* respect and recognition. Whether elected to office or in being honored with an award, don't believe anyone who says that the recognition isn't meaningful.

It is awesome!

And, I thank you for it.