



Vera King Farris, president of Stockton State College in New Jersey, delivers the keynote address at the Second Annual Women Working Conference held over the weekend.

Standards of success differ between sexes, speaker says

By KIRSTEN LEE SWARTZ
Collegian Staff Writer

Men and women face different standards of success, but women can overcome those obstacles if they appreciate the steps that make a person successful, the nation's only black woman college president said Friday.

Vera King Farris, president of Stockton State College in New Jersey and keynote speaker for the Women's Alliance second annual Women Working Conference, said the socialization process plays a role in how success is viewed for men and women.

Farris said successful men are attractive to other members of society. "Most parents want their daughters to marry successful men. . . . 'What is it you intend to do, young man?' they ask."

Yet successful women are still intimidating to men, Farris said, noting that parents do not usually approve of a career-oriented daughter-in-law because they want her to have a family instead.

She said women in the workplace are not only discriminated against in terms of salary, but also in terms of "perks" — privileges, gains or profits.

A man can receive tips at conferences, dinners, ball games or racquetball outings. But if a woman starts playing racquetball with her male co-workers on a regular ba-

sis, the wives of her colleagues don't like it, Farris said.

She also said successful men and women must live up to different perceived roles. Women are judged on their achievements as wives and mothers and how well they balance these roles with their jobs, whereas a successful man is not seen as unsuccessful if he is not a good father or husband.

Farris added that it would hurt her more if someone said she failed as a mother rather than as a college president.

She noted that successful attire for women is more costly and goes out of style more quickly than fashions for men. A man needs only one or two suits, including a dark navy jacket, grey or tan pants, some shirts, ties and shoes, she said. These items are worn for both formal and informal occasions.

"But for a woman, there is a great deal of uncertainty about what is acceptable," she said. "A woman can't wear her dark (business) suit to a formal dinner or a cocktail party."

At the audience's request, Farris also elaborated on power play, "the art of running over the opposition."

Men, who are brought up to compete, "have to prove themselves constantly," she said. "Women take aggressive acts personally."

Farris said the key to overcoming such obstacles is to "appreciate

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— Vera Farris,
president of Stockton
State College in New
Jersey

the steps involved in the process of success."

"Success seems not to be so much an event as much as a process," Farris said.

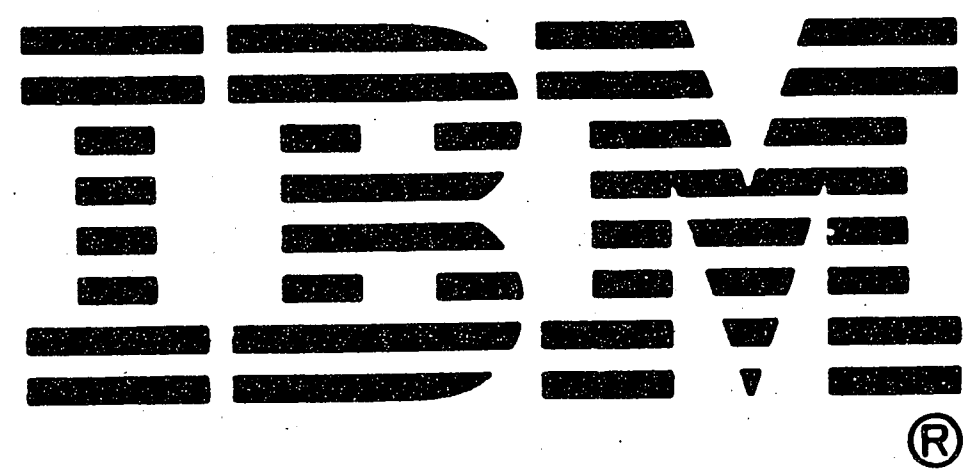
"The process involves both ups and downs and you have to survive them both," she said. "Having your values and beliefs act as your driving force is liberating because you are responsible to the one person who knows you best."

She added, "Try to think of success as a constant process of learning and doing."

The conference, held Friday and Saturday, attracted women from around the state as well as University students, faculty and staff members.

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John F. Kennedy

Local Peace Corps reunion sparks project possibilities

By ELLEN STERN
Collegian Staff Writer

Students who arrive at State College and experience culture shock have not really experienced true culture shock. They should try to picture themselves in a remote village, thousands of miles away from home, living among a group of people whose culture, language, and lifestyle are wholly unfamiliar.

For thousands of Americans over the past 25 years, this scenario was a way of life for the two years they spent serving in the Peace Corps.

Last week, about 30 former volunteers met at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Centre County, 758 Glenn Road, to discuss the possibility of forming a group of Return Peace Corps Volunteers.

Katy Hansen, president of the National Council of Return Peace Corps Volunteers, discussed possible projects the group might attempt, such as raising funds for Peace Corps projects, speaking to local groups and schools, and publishing literature.

Hansen said the purpose of forming the group is to accomplish one of the goals of the Peace Corps: To promote understanding of the Third World. "Many volunteers return and find that no one wants to listen to what you have to say," she said.

President John F. Kennedy formed the Peace Corps in 1961 to fulfill one of his campaign promises. One of the agency's initial staff members was Lawrence Dennis, a University faculty member. During the 1960s,

many young people regarded the Peace Corps as a novel, exciting and constructive way to spend the years following college graduation.

In the Peace Corps, volunteers with marketable skills teach residents of various foreign countries new aspects of, among other things, technology, education and health care.

Bill Butler, the University Peace Corps recruiter, joined after graduating from the University with a biology degree in 1978. He was sent to Cameroon, a country in west Africa. "I taught all aspects of raising fish, which was unfamiliar to their culture at the time," he said.

Sandra Houtz, another former volunteer, was part of one of the first groups to go abroad in 1961. She was sent to Pakistan to improve health education.

"It was an adventure," Houtz said. "You had to be an adventurer to have it appeal to you."

"At first, friends and parents couldn't figure out why we wanted to do it. We were going to live in a foreign place for two years and not know what was going to happen," she said.

Today, the Peace Corps does not receive as much attention as it did

10 or 15 years ago, possibly because it is no longer a novelty, Butler said.

It is considered professional employment. Many of the new volunteers are more realistic than idealistic, realizing they can't save the world, Butler said.

The world has changed since Houtz joined the corps, she said, adding that some of the people in the countries the volunteers went to are now more sophisticated.

Peace Corps members now receive deferment from Guaranteed Student Loans and will receive discounts off other loans granted after July.

"The Peace Corps is highly respected on resumes," Butler said. "It is proven international employment, with proven language skills and great responsibility."

The corps also puts away \$175 every month for each volunteer, and the trip is paid for by the government.

The organization has a budget of about \$100 million. Current director, Loree Ruppe, participated in Reagan's 1980 campaign and has shielded the corps from extensive budget cuts.

Engineers

Continued from page 1
been clear from the start. The policy states that students will be evaluated for entrance into their majors after either three or four semesters.

"In my mind there's never been any misunderstanding of what the policy said," said Robert Dunham, vice president for academic services.

Cartwright agreed that the policy of third- or fourth-semester evaluation is evident in the letter Miller and Hricko quoted.

However, the students believe administrators should have more clearly spelled out the policy interpretation.

"We're not saying this is a terrible policy, but bringing it in now is terrible," Miller said. "It's a cop-out if (administrators) say there's miscommunication. . . . That's bad."

Hricko added: "They've got their loopholes covered. They're going to say, 'There's been a problem in interpretation.'"

However, Cartwright said students should have known how the policy would be implemented because administrators have been interpreting the enrollment management policy since it was developed in 1985.

Hricko said he would have been satisfied knowing that his grades did not earn him a place in an engineering major. But he said he cannot accept that a "policy mix-up" did not allow him sufficient time to compete with other engineers for entrance into a major.

Miller and Hricko also believe it is unfair that the sophomore engineers now being admitted to a major could get low grades this semester and still be guaranteed a spot in the major for the fall.

Wolgumuth confirmed that once students are accepted into enrollment

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— Mike A. Miller, Penn State University engineering student

controlled engineering majors, their spots are guaranteed — provided they maintain a 2.4 grade-point average.

All engineering majors — except agricultural engineering and chemical engineering — are under enrollment controls.

Addressing the number of spots that might open up under reconsideration, Wolgumuth said, "my guess is only slightly better than yours," and added that College of Engineering officials hope to evaluate the list by June 1.

Additional space may arise if students who were already accepted do not meet their course requirements after the fourth semester, decide to switch to another engineering major, or choose to leave the College of Engineering altogether.

Miller and Hricko said they expect a long list and fierce competition among those on the list by the end of the semester.

Miller added that the entire acceptance process for engineers is "a convenience to some people and it's like the death penalty to other people."

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