FINDING AID FOR
Women, Writing and Incarceration Project records

DePaul University, Special Collections and Archives
2350 N Kenmore Ave., Chicago, IL 60614
archives@depaul.edu 773-325-7864
Collection Description

Women, Writing and Incarceration Project records
Date Range: 1995-2005
Quantity: 2.5 LF, 7 boxes

Creator
Stanford, Ann Folwell

History
The Women, Writing and Incarceration Project (WWIP) began as a class taught by Professor Ann Folwell Stanford in DePaul University's School for New Learning. The class developed from the "Windows to Freedom" library program at Cook County Jail, which was established by community activists in 1996. Stanford conducted creative writing workshops with this program from its inception, and occasionally brought students to volunteer with her. From this, Stanford developed the idea for the WWIP class at DePaul, which she proposed in 2001. The class was intended to be experiential. By bringing students into the prisons to conduct poetry writing workshops with female prisoners, the WWIP sought to introduce students to the realities of incarceration for women in the United States as well as to offer incarcerated women a way to "interrupt the official discourse" about them. The class was one quarter long, taught three times per year, and set up as a larger project so that interested students could become "Project Associates" and activists. The class was offered from 2001 to 2005.

Scope
The Women, Writing and Incarceration Project records contain poetry and other writings created by inmates in various Illinois correctional facilities as part of DePaul University's Women, Writing and Incarceration Project. This collection also contains grant proposals, planning documents, course materials, and publicity related to the class, as well as writings by Ann Folwell Stanford, the professor who founded and taught the class.

Some personally identifying information has been redacted to protect confidentiality, including addresses, social security numbers, and student names. Prior to each anthology's publication, Stanford collected permission forms from authors stating that their work may be used anonymously in excerpted or whole form for educational purposes (e.g., in classes, published articles, or presentations). Whenever possible, these permissions have been matched to their anthologies within the collection.

Arrangement
This collection is organized into six series: 1. Administrative; 2. Ann Folwell Stanford; 3. Anthologies; 4. Class Activities; 5. Publications; 6. Reference Files. Most series are arranged alphabetically by topic; See series-level descriptions for individual arrangement details.

Provenance
Accession 2008.11

Location
3/36/1
Restrictions
This collection is open for research use.

Language
In English

Prepared By
EB 2009
Series Descriptions

Series 001: Administrative
Date Range: 1996-2004
Quantity: 0.16 LF

Scope:
The Administrative series contains correspondence, grant requests, publicity, a course proposal, and planning documents related to the development of the Women, Writing and Incarceration Project at DePaul University.

Arrangement:
Files are arranged alphabetically by topic.

Restrictions: None

Container List
Box#.Folder#   Folder Title                                              Date
001.001      Anthologies: Notes and Planning                        2003-2004
001.002      Class Proposal and Mission                            2001
001.003      Correspondence                                       1996-2004
001.004      Grants: Illinois Humanity Council Grant Request       2003
001.005      Grants: Replogle Foundation Grant Request              2002
001.006      Grants: Rockefeller Foundation Grant Request          2002
001.007      Newspaper Articles                                   2003
001.008      Project Contacts                                     1999-2001

Series 002: Ann Folwell Stanford
Date Range: 2000-2004, undated
Quantity: 0.16 LF

Scope:
The Ann Folwell Stanford series contains articles, poems, and books written by Ann Folwell Stanford, the professor who developed the Women, Writing and Incarceration class at DePaul. This series also contains materials related to Stanford's presentations at various conferences in the early 2000s.

Arrangement:
Materials are arranged alphabetically by topic or title.

Restrictions: None

Container List
Box#.Folder#   Folder Title                                              Date
001.009      Conferences: "Incarceration, Writing and Academia: Lively Bedfellows," Walden University Talk 2004
001.010      Conferences: Locked Away: Critiquing the US Prison System through Story and Text 2000
001.011      Conferences: "Writing in and Out of Cook County Jail"
Conference on College Composition and Communication 2002

001.012 Writings: "Arrival at a Poetry Workshop Poem" undated
001.013 Writings: "Beyond the Razor Wire Book" undated
001.014 Writings: "More Than Just Words: Women's Poetry and Resistance at Cook County Jail" for Feminist Studies Journal 2004
001.015 Writings: "Where Love Flies Free: Writing, Home and Incarcerated Women" undated
001.016 Writings: Workshop Poetry and Notes 2000

Series 003: Anthologies
Date Range: 2001-2005
Quantity: 1.16 LF

Scope:
The Anthologies series contains poetry and other writings created by inmates as part of the Women, Writing and Incarceration project. Inmate facilities represented in this series include the Cook County Department of Corrections (CCDOC), Dwight Correctional Center (DCC), Genesis House, Grace House, Kankakee Minimum Security Unit (KMSU), and Sister House.

Arrangement:
Files are arranged alphabetically by facility name, then chronologically.

Restrictions: None

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<tr>
<th>Container List</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Box#.Folder#</td>
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<tr>
<td>002.001</td>
<td>2003-2005</td>
<td>Permissions (missing anthologies)</td>
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<td>002.002</td>
<td>undated</td>
<td>Handwritten Poetry: A - L</td>
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<tr>
<td>002.003</td>
<td>undated</td>
<td>Handwritten Poetry: M - Z</td>
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<tr>
<td>002.004</td>
<td>undated</td>
<td>Handwritten Poem, Male Prison Written (mailed to Ann Stanford)</td>
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<td>002.005</td>
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<td>Cook County Department of Corrections (CCDOC): &quot;Writing Free, Writing Bold&quot;</td>
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<td>002.006</td>
<td>Fall 2001</td>
<td>CCDOC: &quot;Voices and Visions&quot;</td>
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<td>002.007</td>
<td>Fall 2002</td>
<td>CCDOC: &quot;Voices Loud and Proud&quot;</td>
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<td>002.008</td>
<td>April 2003</td>
<td>CCDOC: &quot;Bold Women, Bold Words,&quot; Mondays</td>
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<td>002.009</td>
<td>May 2003</td>
<td>CCDOC: &quot;Strong Women Writing from the Heart,&quot; Tuesdays</td>
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<td>002.011</td>
<td>Fall 2003</td>
<td>CCDOC: Untitled</td>
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<td>002.012</td>
<td>Winter 2004</td>
<td>CCDOC: Untitled - for Inside, Tuesdays</td>
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<td>003.001</td>
<td>Winter 2004</td>
<td>CCDOC: Untitled, Saturdays</td>
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<td>003.003</td>
<td>Winter 2005</td>
<td>CCDOC: &quot;Expression through Words,&quot; Tuesdays</td>
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<td>003.004</td>
<td>Fall 2005</td>
<td>CCDOC: &quot;Anthology,&quot; Monday</td>
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<td>003.005</td>
<td>Fall 2005</td>
<td>CCDOC: &quot;Anthology,&quot; Tuesday</td>
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<td>003.006</td>
<td>Spring 2004</td>
<td>Dwight Correctional Center (DCC): Untitled</td>
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<td>003.007</td>
<td>Fall 2004</td>
<td>DCC: &quot;Women with Creative Minds&quot;</td>
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<td>003.008</td>
<td>Winter 2005</td>
<td>DCC: &quot;We Soar Above All&quot;</td>
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<td>003.009</td>
<td>Spring 2005</td>
<td>DCC: &quot;Poetic Expressions&quot;</td>
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<td>003.010</td>
<td>Fall 2005</td>
<td>DCC: &quot;Accentuate the Positive&quot;</td>
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Series 004: Class Activities

Date Range: 1998-2005
Quantity: 0.5 LF

Scope:
The Class Activities series contains assignments, self-assessments, class readings, handbooks, a syllabus, class evaluations, and other materials documenting the Women, Writing and Incarceration Project class at DePaul University. Of particular interest are the class journals, which encapsulate the range of responses students had to the prisons, incarcerated women, and poetry.

Arrangement:
Files are arranged alphabetically by topic.

Restrictions: None

Container List

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Box#.Folder#</th>
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<tr>
<td>005.005</td>
<td>Agendas</td>
<td>2003-2005</td>
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<tr>
<td>005.006</td>
<td>Assignments: Journals</td>
<td>2002-2003</td>
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<tr>
<td>005.007</td>
<td>Assignments: Journals</td>
<td>2003-2004</td>
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<td>006.001</td>
<td>Class Forms: Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) Volunteer Application and Handbook</td>
<td>2002</td>
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<td>006.002</td>
<td>Class Forms: In - Class Exercises</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>006.003</td>
<td>Class Forms: Self - Assessments and Project Associate Continuation</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>006.004</td>
<td>Class Forms: Site Assignments, Student Information Sheets and Guidelines</td>
<td>2004-2005</td>
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<tr>
<td>006.005</td>
<td>Class Readings: Newspaper Articles</td>
<td>1998-2003</td>
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<td>006.006</td>
<td>Class Readings: Scholarly Articles</td>
<td>1902-2002</td>
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Series 005: Publications
Date Range: 2000-2004
Quantity: 0.16 LF

Scope:
The Publications series contains publications created by the Women, Writing and Incarceration Project and featuring poetry written by inmates.

Arrangement:
Files are arranged alphabetically by publication title.

Restrictions: None

Container List
Box#.Folder#   Folder Title                     Date
007.001        Inside                           Fall 2004
007.002        Real Conditions                 2000-2001

Series 006: Reference Files
Date Range: 1995-2000
Quantity: 0.16 LF

Scope:
The Reference Files series contains examples of other incarceration writing programs that inspired the Women, Writing and Incarceration Project.

Arrangement:
Files are arranged chronologically.

Restrictions: None

Container List
Box#.Folder#   Folder Title                      Date
007.003        Girl Talk, Audy Home for Girls   1995-2000
007.004        Prison Creative Arts Project, University of Michigan 1998