

3-23-2005

Dr. Sandra Steingraber Lecture

Honors College

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**THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS/DISTINGUISHED
LECTURE SERIES COMMITTEE
GRANT APPLICATION**

PROVIDE 10 (TEN) COPIES, INCLUDING THE ORIGINAL.
PLEASE PLACE A COPY OF THIS COVER SHEET ON TOP OF EACH COPY

I. Applicant/Organization: Honors College	
II. a. Responsible Organization Officer: Jennifer Saucier	
b. Title: Associate, Honors College	
c. Campus Address (include EMail and Telephone): Colvin Hall, 581-3263 or 581-3201 jennifer.saucier@umit.maine.edu	
III. Summary of program requiring funding (title; featured artist(s); speaker(s); scheduled date (s):	
The Honors College has arranged to host distinguished author, cancer survivor, and ecologist Dr. Sandra Steingraber for a lecture on based on topics from her text <i>Living Downstream</i> . The date of the event is April 28, 2005 at 3:30 pm in Minsky Recital Hall. Dr. Steingraber will be flying in for the event and charges a stipend of \$5000. In addition, we will be paying for accommodations during her stay.	
Expand in fuller detail, a supporting statement with <u>detailed, itemized budget</u>. Funding for current application is contingent upon submission of detailed budget and attendance report for any previous years' grants.	
IV. a. Total funding required for program:	\$ 5,630.00
b. Amount committed by applicant organization:	\$ 2,415.00
c. Amount committed by Women In the Curriculum	\$ 200.00
The University of Maine Bookstore	\$ 200.00
d. Amount requested from other funding sources	\$ 0.00
e. Amount requested of Cultural Affairs/DLS Committee:	\$ 2,815.00
Signature of responsible organization officer/date: <u>Jennifer K. Saucier</u> 3/23/05	
SIGNATURE DATE	

\$2815

SEND COMPLETED APPLICATION TO: CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
C/O PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
200 ALUMNI HALL, CAMPUS

***The Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series Committee Grant Application
Supporting Statement
Honors College***

The Honors College at The University of Maine has invited Dr. Sandra Steingraber to visit our campus and lecture on issues from her text *Living Downstream*. Dr. Steingraber is a renowned ecologist, author, and cancer survivor who is an internationally recognized expert on the environmental links to cancer and reproductive health. Attached, please find a detailed biography and CV of her accomplishments.

Dr. Steingraber's book, *Living Downstream*, was chosen by a group of Honors students in an Honors tutorial class as the "The Honors Read 2004." The "Honors Read" is selected annually from a group of texts recommended by the University Community and based on the criteria of universal appeal, readability, and potential for both discussion and controversy. This book is a required text for our incoming first year students as well as second year students. Our students found a particular interest in Dr. Steingraber's work on environmental awareness due to its significance in our state and local communities.

The "Honors Read" initially began in 2002, building on the ten-year tradition at The University of Maine of the Class Book, which began in 1992. The Honors Read provides a common experience for each of more than two hundred students coming to UMaine from across the state, the country, and the world and serves as an academic focus for students from all parts of the University.

This event, which is new to the University Community, will be held on April 28th, 2005 in the Minsky Recital Hall at 3:30pm. The title of the talk will be, "Contaminated Without Consent: How Chemicals in Air, Food, and Water Violate Human Rights." We intend that the lecture will run for approximately one hour with a 30 minute question and answer period. A book-signing and reception will follow the event.

We will be inviting all University faculty, staff, and students to attend this important event. In addition, we will be placing advertisements with local community organizations that may have an interest. Posters have been designed for the event and will be placed around campus and the surrounding communities. We feel that this topic of ecological responsibility is important to our local community in Maine. Maine as an industrial state has numerous facilities and locations where potential health and environmental hazards could exist. Dr. Steingraber's lecture looks to inform our community about her research and findings on the significances that chemicals play in our environment and lives to make us more aware of our influences and surroundings.

We at the Honors College hope that this lecture series will become a tradition in years to come and will serve as a bridge between our students and their communities. We feel that it is a very exciting opportunity for the University Community to have such a distinguished speaker coming to share her experiences and thoughts on our world.

Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series Application Detailed Budget

Event: Dr. Sandra Steingraber Lecture
 Responsible Officer: Jennifer Saucier
 Responsible Organization: The University of Maine Honors College

Expense	Payment Party	Cost	Details
Honorarium	Sandra Steingraber	\$5,000	Dr. Steingraber asks for a \$5000 honorarium for each lecture
Accommodations	Dirigo Pines	\$100	We have arranged one night accommodations at Dirigo Pines
Travel Expenses	Jodi Solomon Speakers Bureau	\$400	We will be paying for 1/2 of a plane ticket
Room Rental Fee	University of Maine	\$100	Campus Rate for a lecture advertized of the public
Presidential Podium	University of Maine	\$30	

Total Expenses: \$5,630

Honors College
Robert B. Thomson Honors Center



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May 16, 2005

The Cultural Affairs Distinguished Lecture Series Committee
C/O President's Office
201 Alumni Hall, Campus

Dear Cultural Affairs Distinguished Lecture Series Committee,

Dr. Sandra Steingraber, environmental activist, cancer survivor, author, and scholar, visited the University of Maine on April 28th for the first annual Honors College "Honors Read" lecture. Dr. Steingraber's visit to The University of Maine proved to be a success with all events well attended. Dr. Steingraber got into vibrant discussions with students and faculty during lunch in addition to the large lecture at Minsky Recital Hall. At the lecture Dr. Steingraber shared her passion for the environment by sharing information she has obtained through her research. She discussed her writings on a poly vinyl chloride plant explosion in Illinois, her battle with cancer and its links to the environment, and also touched upon some topics very relevant to our Maine environment such as mercury in our waters contaminating the fish population.

The event was very well attended. It is estimated that over 250 people came to the lecture to nearly fill Minsky Recital Hall to capacity. The crowd consisted of Honors students and faculty, classes and faculty from Women in the Curriculum, and other interested members of the University Community. Dr. Steingraber received a standing ovation from the crowd following her talk. At the end of her visit, Dr. Steingraber commented that she felt very well taken care of during her stay at UMaine.

We hope that Dr. Steingraber's visit brought attention to some very important topics centering around environmental awareness and cancer prevention. We were pleased to be able to bring such a distinguished speaker to campus to share information and passion with our community on a very important cause. We hope to continue this lecture series in the years to come with as much success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Jennifer K. Saucier'.

Jennifer Saucier
Associate, The Honors College at The University of Maine

JODI F. SOLOMON

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Sandra Steingraber



- Author of *Living Downstream* and *Having Faith*
- Ecologist
- Cancer Survivor
- Internationally recognized expert on environmental links to cancer

Ecologist, author, and cancer survivor, Sandra Steingraber, Ph.D. is an internationally recognized expert on the environmental links to cancer and reproductive health.

Steingraber's highly acclaimed book, *Living Downstream: An Ecologist Looks at Cancer and the Environment* presents cancer as a human rights issue. It was the first to bring together data on toxic releases with newly released data from U.S. cancer registries. *Living Downstream* won praise from international media, including *The Washington Post*, *the Nation*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *Kirkus Reviews*, *Publishers Weekly*, *The Lancet*, and *The London Times*. In 1997, Steingraber was named a *Ms. Magazine* Woman of the Year. In 1998, she received from the Jenifer Altman foundation the first annual Altman Award for "the inspiring and poetic use of science to elucidate the causes of cancer," and from the American Medical Writers Association, the Will Solimene Award for "excellence in medical communication." In 1999, the Sierra Club heralded Steingraber as "*the new Rachel Carson*." And in 2001, Carson's own alma mater, Chatham College, selected Steingraber to receive its biennial Rachel Carson Leadership Award.

Continuing the investigation begun in *Living Downstream*, Steingraber's new work, *Having Faith: An Ecologist's Journey to Motherhood*, explores the intimate ecology of motherhood. Both a memoir of her own pregnancy and an investigation of fetal toxicology, *Having Faith* reveals the alarming extent to which environmental hazards now threaten each crucial stage of infant development. In the eyes of an ecologist, the mother's body is the first environment for human life. The *Library Journal* selected *Having Faith* as a best book of 2001. In 2002, it was featured on "Kids and Chemicals," a PBS documentary by Bill Moyers. Most recently, Sandra has contributed to *What We Do Now*. This book contains individual manifestos outlining a series of passionate new ideas for life after the recent election.

An enthusiastic and sought-after public speaker, Steingraber has keynoted conferences on human health and the environment throughout the United States and Canada and has been invited to lecture at many universities, medical schools, and teaching hospitals--including Harvard, Yale, Cornell, and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute. She is recognized for her ability to serve as a two-way translator between scientists and activists. In 1999, as part of international treaty negotiations, she briefed U.N. delegates in Geneva, Switzerland on dioxin contamination of breast milk. Interviews with Steingraber have appeared in *The Chicago Tribune*, *USA Today*, *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*, on National Public Radio, "The Today Show", and "Now" with Bill Moyers.

Formerly on faculty at Cornell University, Sandra Steingraber is currently a Distinguished Visiting Scholar at Ithaca College. She received her doctorate in biology from the University of Michigan and master's degree in English from Illinois State University. She is the author of *Post-Diagnosis*, a volume of poetry, and co-author of a book on ecology and human rights in Africa, *The Spoils of Famine*. She has taught biology at Columbia College, Chicago, held visiting fellowships at the University of Illinois, Radcliffe/Harvard, and Northeastern University, and served on President Clinton's National Action Plan on Breast Cancer.

She is married to sculptor Jeff de Castro. They are proud parents of Faith and Elijah.

Sandra Steingraber, Ph.D.

BORN Aug. 27, 1959, Champaign, Illinois

EDUCATION

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Ph.D., biological sciences, 1989

Illinois State University, Normal
M.A., English/creative writing, 1982

Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington
B.A., biology, 1981 (*magna cum laude*)

GRANTS, AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS

Will Solimene Award for Excellence in Medical Communication,
New England Chapt. of the American Medical Writer's Assoc., 1998

Jenifer Altman Foundation Award, 1998
("for the inspiring and poetic use of science to elucidate
the causes of cancer")

Woman of the Year, *Ms. Magazine*, 1997

post-doctoral fellowship in women's public health policy,
Center for Research on Women and Gender, U. of Illinois, Chicago, 1996

Evelyn Greene Davis fellowship, the Mary Ingraham Bunting Institute,
Radcliffe College, 1993-94

Barbara Deming Memorial Award (poetry), 1994

National Endowment for the Humanities
summer fellowship, Indiana University, 1991

Feminist Women's Writing Workshop scholarship (poetry)
Wells College, 1990

Ragdale Foundation residency and scholarship, 1990

invited lecture, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Union of Professional Scientists, Washington, D.C., June 1998

invited lecture, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland, April 1998

invited lecture, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, March 1998

invited lecture and grand rounds, Vermont Public Interest Research Group and Univ. Vermont Hospitals, Dec. 1997

invited lecture, School of Public Health, SUNY, Albany, Nov. 1997

invited lecture, Dept. of Biology, McGill University, Montreal, Nov. 1997

invited lecture, York University, Ontario, Nov. 1997

invited lecture, University of British Columbia, Nov. 1997

presentation, "Chemical Contaminants and Health," State of the World Forum, San Francisco, Oct. 1997

distinguished lecture, Institute for Research on Women and Gender, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Oct. 1997

keynote address, Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation, Oct. 1997

The Bradlow lecture, Hampshire College, Mass., Oct. 1997

invited lecture, University of California, Davis Medical School and School of Agriculture, Oct. 1997

keynote address, "Toxins in Our Midst" conference, Pennsylvania Women's Health and Environmental Network, Philadelphia, Oct. 1997

keynote address, Clean Water Action, Webster, MA., Sept. 1997

keynote address, "Women's Health in the Workplace" conference, Teresa and H. John Heinz Foundation, Boston, Sept. 1997

keynote address, First World Conference on Breast Cancer, Queens University, Kingston, Ontario, July 1997

invited lecture, "Remembering Rachel Carson," John F. Kennedy Library, Boston, April 1997

keynote address, "Cancer as a Human Rights Issue," National Environmental Law Conference, University of Oregon, March 1997

"Women's Cancers and the Environment," and "Women and the Health Care Industry," presentations at the 1996 meetings of the American Public Health Association, New York, NY, Nov. 1996

ORGANIZATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Public Health Association
Associated Writing Programs
Breast Cancer Action (science advisory committee)
National Action Plan on Breast Cancer (breast cancer etiology working group), U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services
National Writers Union
New Jersey Work Environment Council (science advisory committee)
Radcliffe Society of Institute Fellows
Society for Environmental Journalists
Women's Community Cancer Project, Cambridge

TEACHING

writer in residence, Illinois Wesleyan University, spring 1998
visiting professor, Dept. of Biology, Illinois Wesleyan U., spring 1997
visiting scholar, Women's Studies Program, Northeastern University, Boston, 1994-1996.
science mentor, Radcliffe Research Partnership, 1993-94
asst. professor of biology and science coordinator, writing-across-the-curriculum program, Columbia College, Chicago, 1990-1993
Illinois poet-in-the-schools, 1991-92

LECTURES, WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES, STUDY SECTIONS (SELECTED)

invited lecture, Utah State University, Logan, April 1999
invited lecture, College of St. Scholastica, Duluth, MN, Feb. 1999
invited presentation, "Mixed Environmental Hazards and Cancer: Scientific Advances," American Association for the Advancement of Science annual meetings, Los Angeles, Jan. 1999
co-chair, National Action Plan on Breast Cancer's conference on breast cancer clusters, Cambridge, MA, Dec. 1998
invited lecture, Alaska Conservation Alliance, Anchorage, July 1998
invited lecture, Kaiser Permanente Hospitals, Oakland, CA, June 1998

American Association for the Advancement of Science, Mass Media Fellowship, 1986

Jesse Smith Noyes Foundation and Organization for Tropical Studies, research grants to study health, ecology, and agricultural policies in Costa Rica, 1985

Hopwood Award for poetry, University of Michigan, 1983

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

Living Downstream: An Ecologist Looks at Cancer and the Environment, Addison-Wesley Press, 1997.

Post-Diagnosis (poetry), Firebrand Books, 1995.

The Spoils of Famine: Ethiopian Famine Policy and Peasant Agriculture, Cultural Survival Press, 1988 (co-authored with Jason Clay and Peter Niggli).

Papers and Essays (selected):

"The Social Production of Cancer: A Walk Upstream," in *The Struggle for Environmental Health: Corporate Power and Cultural Politics*, R. Hofrichter, ed. (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1999), forthcoming.

"Breast Cancer and the Environment," in *Breast Cancer: the Social Construction of an Illness*, S. Ferguson and A. Kaspar, eds. (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1999), forthcoming.

"Exquisite Communion: The Body, Landscape, and Toxic Exposures," invited paper for the 1998 Shire Conference, "From Theory to Practice: Teaching Ecology in Landscape Architecture Programs," Columbia River Gorge, WA, July 1998.

"Mechanisms, Proof and Unmet Needs: the Perspectives of a Cancer Activist (commentary)," *Environmental Health Perspectives* 107 (April 1997 supplement).

"Xenoestrogens and Women's Health," *Sojourner*, April, 1994.

"If I Live to Be 90 Still Wanting to Say Something" : My Search for Rachel Carson," in *Confronting Cancer, Constructing Change*, M. Stocker, ed. (Chicago: Third Side Press, 1993).

"We All Live Downwind," in *One in Three: Women with Cancer Confront an Epidemic*, J. Brady, ed. (Pittsburgh: Cleis Press, 1991).