Women, Writing and Incarceration Project

**Date Range:** 1995-2005

**Quantity:** 2 feet, 4 inches (7 full size archival boxes)

### History

The Women, Writing and Incarceration Project (WWIP) was formed through a School for New Learning class taught by Professor Ann Folwell Stanford at DePaul University. This class developed out of the "Windows to Freedom" library program at Cook County Jail, which was begun 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 was proposed in 2001. The class was set up to be experiential. By bringing students into the prisons to conduct poetry writing workshops with the 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 a quarter long, taught three times a 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.

### **Description**

The WWIP records are separated into six series arranged either alphabetically or chronologically: Administrative Files, Ann Stanford's conferences and writings, Anthologies, Class Activities, Reference Files, and Publications. The Anthologies include the poetry written by the incarcerated women at different prisons during each quarter the class was held. Within Class Activities, the assignment journals are of particular interest because they encapsulate the multiple ranges of responses the students had to the prisons, incarcerated women, and poetry. The Reference Files contain examples of other incarceration writing programs that were used to set up the WWIP.

Researchers may note that all addresses of prisoners and students, student names attached to their work, and social security numbers have been blacked out in order to protect confidentiality. Before each anthology of prisoner poetry was published, Stanford gathered permissions that state their work can be used anonymously in excerpted or whole form for educational purposes (e.g. in classes, published articles, talk). These permissions have been matched to the anthology wherever possible.

**Provenance:** Accession# 2008.11

#### **Processed**

Elizabeth Boden, March-May 2009

Box	Folder	Date
	iner List	
1	ADMINISTRATIVE MATERIALS	
	Anthologies: Notes and Planning	2003-2004
	Class Proposal and Mission	2001
	Correspondence	1996-2004
	Grants: Illinois Humanity Council Grant Request	2003
	Grants: Replogle Foundation Grant Request	2002
	Grants: Rockefeller Foundation Grant Request	2002
	Newspaper Articles	2003
	Project Contacts	1999-2001
	ANN STANFORD	
	Conferences	
	"Incarceration, Writing and Academia: Lively Bedfellows"	
	Walden University Talk	2004
	Locked Away: Critiquing the US Prison System through Story and Text	2000
	"Writing in and Out of Cook County Jail"	
	Conference on College Composition and Communication	2002
	Writings	
	"Arrival at a Poetry Workshop" Poem	ND
	"Beyond the Razor Wire" Book	ND
	"More Than Just Words: Women's Poetry and Resistance at Cook	
	County Jail" for Feminist Studies Journal	2004
	"Where Love Flies Free: Writing, Home and Incarcerated Women"	ND
	Workshop Poetry and Notes	2000
	The state of the s	
2	ANTHOLOGIES	
	Permissions (missing anthologies)	2003-2005
	Handwritten Poetry: A-L	ND
	Handwritten Poetry: M-Z	ND
	Handwritten Poem, Male Prison Written (mailed to Ann Stanford)	ND
	Cook County Department of Corrections (CCDOC)	_ ,_
	"Writing Free, Writing Bold"	Fall 2001
	"Voices and Visions"	Fall 2002
	"Voices Loud and Proud"	April 2003
	"Bold Women, Bold Words", Mondays	May 2003
	"Strong Women Writing from the Heart", Tuesdays	May 2003
	"Strong Women, Wise Words, New Poetry", Sunday	May 2003
	Untitled	Fall 2003
	Untitled- for <i>Inside</i> , Tuesdays	Winter 2004
	Ontifica- for mstae, Tuesdays	W IIICI 2004
3	Untitled, Saturdays	Winter 2004
J	"Strong Women, Strong Words", Mondays	Winter 2004 Winter 2005
	"Expression through Words", Tuesdays	Winter 2005 Winter 2005
	"Anthology", Monday	Fall 2005
	"Anthology", Tuesday	
	Anthology, Tuesday	Fall 2005

Box	Folder	Date
3	Dwight Correctional Center	a : 2004
	Untitled	Spring 2004
	"Women with Creative Minds" "We Soon Above All"	Fall 2004
	"We Soar Above All" "Pastia Everyosiana"	Winter 2005
	"Poetic Expressions"  "Accentuate the Positive"	Spring 2005 Fall 2005
	Accentuate the Fositive	1'all 2003
4	Genesis House	
	Untitled	Spring 2005
	"Anthology of Poetry"	Fall 2005
	Grace House	
	Ten Year Anniversary	1994-2004
	Untitled	Winter 2003
	"The Phenomenal Women of Grace House: Freeing Their Minds in	
	Poems from the Heart'	Spring 2003
	"The Untouchable Ladies of Grace"	Fall 2004
	"Those Who Stand for Nothing, Will Fall for Anything!"	Fall 2005
	"Poetry Anthology": Drafts, Handwritten	Spring 2005
	"Poetry Anthology"	Spring 2005
	Kankakee Minimum Security Unit (KMSU), Dwight Correctional Ce	
	"In Their Own Voices"	Spring 2003
	Untitled	Summer 2003
	Untitled	Fall 2003
	"An Inner View"	Winter 2004
5	Sister House	
	"Creative Women Writing from the Heart'	Fall 2004
	"Poetry Workshop"	Winter 2005
	"Poem Anthology"	Spring 2005
	Untitled	Fall 2005
	CLASS ACTIVITIES	
	Agendas	2003-2005
	Assignments: Journals	2002-2003
	Assignments: Journals	2003-2004
6	Class Forms: Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) Volunteer	
	Application and Handbook	2002
	Class Forms: In-Class Exercises	ND
	Class Forms: Self-Assessments and Project Associate Continuation	ND
	Class Forms: Site Assignments, Student Information Sheets	
	and Guidelines	2004-2005
	Class Readings: Newspaper Articles	1998-2003
	Class Readings: Scholarly Articles	1902-2002
	Handbook for Creative Writing Workshop	2004
	Independent Studies	2003
	Participant Thank-you's and Awards	2004

Box	Folder	Date
6	Syllabus	Spring 2003-2004
	Writing Resources	ND
	Workshop Evaluations	2003-Fall 2004
	Workshop Evaluations	Winter 2004-2005
	Workshop Reports	2004-2005
7	PUBLICATIONS	
	Inside	Fall 2004
	Real Conditions	2000-2001
	REFERENCE FILES	
	Girl Talk, Audy Home for Girls	1995-2000
	Prison Creative Arts Project, University of Michigan	1998