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## Lesbian Health Care

Francesca Mary Maresca

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October 25, 1996

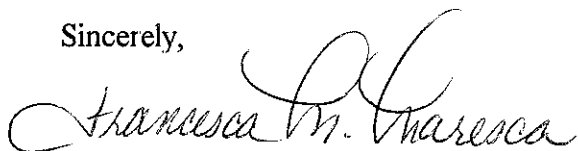
Ms Holly J Nichols, Chair  
Third Annual Symposium  
Women's Studies Program  
University of Rhode Island  
Roosevelt Hall  
Kingston, Rhode Island 02881

Dear Ms Nichols:

Please accept the enclosed one page description as a submission for "Perspectives on Progress,"  
The Third Annual Symposium on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues I have also  
included a copy of my resume

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future

Sincerely,



Francesca Mary Maresca, M A  
Ph.D. Candidate, New York University

enc.

Francesca Mary Maresca  
Abstract

Title: Lesbian Health Care: An Oxymoron?

Time: Approximately 30 minutes

Audio/Visual: None

In a society such as the United States, where quality health care has become a valued commodity, it is becoming crucial for disenfranchised communities, such as the lesbian community, to become more pro-active in seeking comprehensive health care and education. The issues that affect all women include breast cancer, contraception, proper nutrition, and more specifically, sexual health.

Historically, women's access to health care has been limited by a lack of education about their own bodies, limited training of health professionals (outside of gynecology), economic barriers, and a culture that puts most emphasis on visual health such as beauty, than it does on total health. These obstacles become larger than life for certain minority groups. For lesbians, these problems are compounded by the social stigma attached to homosexuality, dearth of health services geared directly toward lesbians, and the myth that lesbians are just naturally in tune with their bodies.

The area of sexual health, including reproductive aspects, is one that receives little attention from both lesbians and health care professionals. I hope to explore the obstacles to complete health for lesbians, including the implicit gender bias that exists in medical culture, as well as the unique aspects of lesbian sexual health, especially in this era of HIV/AIDs, and the efforts that are being made to provide better health care for lesbians.

**Francesca Mary Maresca**  
**608 Seventh Street**  
**Carlstadt, New Jersey 07072**  
**(201) 531-0259**

**Education:** Ph D. Candidate, Health Education & Human Sexuality  
**New York University, New York, NY**  
M A Gender Studies, May 1995  
**New York University, New York, NY**  
B.A. Political Science, May 1990  
**Rutgers University, Newark, NJ**

**Health Education  
Experience:**

**Intern** 5/96 - 9/96  
**Office of Health Education, New York University, NY**  
Developed, wrote, and produced fact sheets for the Women's Health Unit of New York University on contraceptives and sexually transmitted infections. Wrote a brochure on lesbian health issues. Provided information and counseling for walk-in students.

**Sexual Health Advocate** 1/94 - Present  
**Office of Health Education, New York University, NY**  
Present educational programs to the University community on HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections, safer sex, birth control, sexual assault, gay/lesbian/bisexual issues, women's health workshops, personal safety, and general health information

**Volunteer Health Educator** 4/96 - Present  
**The Lesbian Health Project, CHP, NY**  
Provide community health information and resources. Greet and check-in clients. Retrieve charts and collect fees. Answer in-person and telephone inquiries.

**Administrative  
Experience:**

**Administrative Assistant, Office of the Dean** 9/93 - Present  
**Wagner Graduate School, New York University, NY**  
Act as the liaison to the Office of Student services. Oversee the organization and preparation of special events including all commencement and convocation activities. Revise the School bulletin and other school publications on an annual basis. Write articles for the monthly School newsletter, *The Wagner Update*.

**Alumni Manager** 9/93 - Present  
**Wagner Alumni Association, New York University, NY**  
Serve as the primary liaison to the School's Alumni Association. Responsibilities include fund raising activities, event planning, and membership recruitment.

**Francesca Mary Maresca**

**Assistant to the Publisher** 6/90 - 7/92  
**Business Manager** 5/91 - 11/91  
**The K.S.F. Group, NY**  
Responsible for all aspects of office management and client relations

**Student**

**Government:**

**President** 1/93 - 5/95  
**Liberal Studies Graduate Student Organization**  
**Graduate School of Arts and Science**  
Organize events to bring the student body together including speakers, alumni panels, socials, and dinners.

**Member** 1/95 - 5/95  
**Disciplinary Hearing Committee**  
**Graduate School of Arts and Science**  
Participate in the disciplinary hearing process for students

**Presentations:**

**Notre Dame High School, NY**  
**Human Sexuality Workshops**  
Provide information and facilitate discussion about sexuality issues, including contraception, safer sex, and sexual assault.

**Professional  
Affiliations:**

Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS)  
American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors, and Therapists (AASECT)  
Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality (SSSS)

**Skills:**

WordPerfect 5.1 and 6.0, QuattroPro 4.0, Lotus 1-2-3 for Windows, Excel, Quark Express, Paradox, Eudora