

WOMEN'S STUDIES CELEBRATION
Women's History Month 2006

NOMINATION: Papers and projects done in completion of course work for Spring, Summer and Fall 2005 eligible for nomination. Students do not need to be enrolled Fall 2005 or Spring 2006 to be eligible. (Students are encouraged to identify works they would like nominated and approach their professor to initiate the process.)

Instructor Jane Pederson _____ Dept. History _____

Course Number and Name History 489-Research Seminar _____ Semester completed Spring 05 _____

Title of Nominated Work: Rational Goddess/Pagan Witch: History and Hypatia from the Fourth Century AD Through Modernity _____

Pick one-
CATEGORY:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Sampson: | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Undergraduate Research Paper | <input type="checkbox"/> See |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Undergraduate Project | <input type="checkbox"/> Olson |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Graduate | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kessler |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Turell |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Belter |

(The judges retain the right to reassign categories for all nominated works.)

STUDENT INFORMATION:

Name Jaclyn De Medicci _____

Email demedijm _____ Year/Major History, Graduated in Spring 06 _____

Local Address _____

Local Phone ---- 559-9760 _____

****WHY DO YOU, THE INSTRUCTOR, RECOMMEND THIS AS AN EXEMPLARY STUDENT PAPER/PROJECT? (Attach a separate sheet.)**

As the nominating instructor, please notify the student and ask them to turn in the paper, or attach to your nomination form.

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University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

105 Garfield Avenue • P.O. Box 4004 • Eau Claire, WI 54702-4004

To: Women's Studies Awards Committee.

From: Jane Pederson

Subject: Women's Studies Awards

Jaclyn de Medici's paper, "Rational Goddess/Pagan Witch," offers a compelling analysis of the history of Hypatia (b.355, d.415) and the contested meanings of her life and brutal death. As Jaclyn research indicates, Hypatia's intellectual achievements and political power created controversy in her own time that have continued across time. As Jaclyn suggests the debates about Hypatia are sensitive barometers of unstable gender systems and a volatile, violent, and oppressive religious climate. The murder of Hypatia exposes the uncompromising brutality of early Christian leaders in the face of women's intellectual, political, and personal autonomy. Her death marked a harsh beginning to the long debate about Hypatia's significance, and a long history of oppression for women.

Jaclyn has skillfully mined the secondary literature on Hypatia, but she is most creative in identifying and interrogating primary sources. Jaclyn demonstrated notable initiative in identifying sources. She located works published and unpublished in translation from the fifth century and then tracked commentators from the eighteenth, nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first century. In doing so she has expanded our knowledge of how narrowly constricted gender constructions were created and contested over time.

Excellence. Our measure, our motto, our goal.

Department of History • (715) 836-5501 • fax: (715) 836-3540

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE

RATIONAL GODDESS/PAGAN WITCH:
HISTORY AND HYPATIA FROM THE FOURTH CENTURY AD THROUGH MODERNITY



BY
JACLYN DE MEDICCI

EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN
MARCH 1, 2005

