

Cady Stanton and Frances Willard in Mr. Granger's eighth-grade classroom. But in addition to names of other women reformers who would enter my consciousness later, we also should have learned that for those women who made such an impact on our history, "church" and "state" were mingled in their hearts. And faith and social action were mingled in their lives. ❖



**Reviewer Alena Amato Ruggerio** (above) and her spouse, Bradley Ruggerio, live in Bloomington, Indiana, where Alena is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Communication and Culture at Indiana University. She also finished a minor in religious studies there last year and is combining her areas of scholarship in a dissertation on the intersection of rhetoric and feminist hermeneutics. An enthusiastic new member of EEWC, she is excited about meeting other EEWC members in Chicago in July as our organization celebrates its 25th anniversary. "I'll be turning 25 three weeks before I attend my first EEWC conference," she writes. "I can't wait!"

## Member News

EEWC's former coordinator, **June Hagen**, reports that she and **Anne Eggebroten**, one of EEWC's foremothers, were speakers at the conference on "Exploring Boundaries: Academic Freedom at Religiously Affiliated Colleges and Universities," held March 31-April 2, 2000 at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. June sent the following description and photo to EEWC Update:

"We were invited to speak by the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), the group that sets standards nationwide on tenure, due process, academic freedom, etc.

"I spoke on the 'Support Gay Rights' button which lost me my job at Nyack College in 1993.

"I analyzed the underlying attitudes of



*June Hagen (L) and Anne Eggebroten at the conference on Academic Freedom*

insularity, fear, and disrespect for 'the other,' which characterized the Board of Trustees' actions. I also praised those of conscience, such as Vice President Jay Mapstone and President Rex Boda, who supported me and also lost their jobs. I ended the talk with a list of suggestions and advice for those who take on the powers that be, especially some thoughts on sustaining one's own spirit and relationship with God in what so often can be an embittering process."

Anne spoke about her experience as a Protestant professor in a Catholic College and her struggles of conscience over accepting a paycheck from an ecclesiastical institution which has taken official stands and actions on social issues at odds with her own convictions (e.g., reproductive rights, homosexuality, and women's ordination).

Anne (along with other educators throughout the U.S., both Catholic and Protestant, and the AAUP as a group) was alarmed about a recent action taken by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops concerning what is known as *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*. Anne explains:

"*Ex Corde Ecclesiae* is an edict sent out by Pope John Paul II in 1990 ordering the church to take steps to ensure that Catholic colleges and universities maintain a distinctively Catholic character. It said that bishops have the power to determine whether theologians are teaching properly (in accordance with Catholic doctrines and positions such as forbidding contraception and forbidding the ordination of women). On Nov. 17, 1999, the American bishops had passed a proposal on how to enforce *Ex Corde*."

If any bishop chooses to enforce *Ex Corde*, it will mean further denial of academic freedom, with broad implications for all faculty at Catholic institutions, but especially for those who teach theology and religious studies. Thus, in an act of support and solidarity with her colleagues facing such restrictions throughout the country, Anne resigned from her tenured position as Associate Professor. Anne made the following statement to EEWC's

electronic mailing list:

"As a non-Catholic teaching literature, I would not be affected by *Ex Corde*, but I do not feel comfortable being employed by an institution that is required to restrict the academic freedom of my colleagues in the Religious Studies Department. I am especially concerned because issues that I care about... are among those that could cause a professor not to receive a mandatum from the local bishop. I can't hold my job while someone else is pressured to leave for teaching or publishing about issues that are dear to me." ❖

### In other EEWC news . . .

**Virginia Ramey Mollenkott**, who will be a speaker at EEWC's conference July 27-30, will be speaking again in the Chicago area the week following. She will be at the Witness Our Welcome (WOW 2000) ecumenical gathering of Welcoming Churches and their allies at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, IL, August 3-6. It is being advertised as "the largest-ever diverse assembly of Christians to address the concerns of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons and their families." Information is available through their infoline (800) 318-5581 or on the Web at <http://www.wow2k.org>

If you wish to contact **Julie Klotz** and **Marguerite Klotz** about their participation in the AIDS Ride (our cover story), they invite you to write them at 216 E. Montrose Ave., Wood Dale, IL 60191. Phone: (630) 595-8364.

Newly elected members of the EEWC Executive Council are **Lourene Bender** (Southeast, 2nd term), **Carol James** (Northwest), **Claire Cruise Warren** (Midwest), and **Maureen Cadle** (San Francisco Bay area). The southwest representative will be announced later.