

Contributors



“Artificial Separations: Rep. Lindy Boggs Responds to Constituents on Abortion, 1973-1974,” by **Anna Gaca** began as a research essay for a course on U.S. women’s history. Drawing upon the Hale Boggs and Lindy Boggs papers at the Louisiana Research Collection, Gaca analyzes how Congresswoman Boggs addressed the abortion controversy shortly after the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Roe v. Wade*. Although it may now seem that support for and opposition to abortion rights divides neatly along partisan lines, Gaca’s article reminds us that this was not always the case. Boggs, a Democratic Congresswoman who championed women’s and civil rights throughout her career, was also a devout Catholic who opposed abortion because of her religious convictions. Gaca illuminates how Boggs sought to maintain her relationships with Louisiana feminists, many of whom supported abortion rights, as she gained new admirers among religious conservatives. Anna Gaca resides in New Orleans.

Nicole Pelletier’s article, “Woman Attorney Florence Loeber: The Trend of Admitting Agency in the New Orleans Legal Community,” draws from her senior honors thesis, “Admitting Agency: The First Generation of Women Attorneys in New Orleans.” In her article, Pelletier examines how Loeber, the fourth woman to practice law in Louisiana, used her position to improve women’s and children’s access to the courts. A copy of Pelletier’s important thesis is available to researchers at the Newcomb Archives; scholars have already drawn upon it to better understand the history of Southern women attorneys. Pelletier is completing her first year of law school at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri.

Ariel Noffke examines why Soviet women commonly used abortion as a method of birth control decades after women in most western nations began to use birth control to regulate pregnancy in her article, “Abortion Culture: Soviet Trends in Family Planning.” Noffke began to research the history of abortion in the Soviet Union when she was an undergraduate at Tulane. Her research reminds us how women’s reproductive choices are shaped by state policies, economics, and culture. Noffke is completing her second year of law school at Tulane University.

Jason Ervin’s lively article, “At Least It Was a Fruit Pie: The Rise and Fall of Anita Bryant,” began as a research essay in a course he took on the history of conservative women in the United States. Although Anita Bryant is frequently mentioned in general monographs about the history of the New Right, few scholars have analyzed Bryant in isolation. Ervin’s careful study of Bryant’s anti-gay rights crusade enables readers to understand how she marshaled a small band of religious conservatives to halt the expansion of civil rights for gays and lesbians during the 1980s. The publication of this article is particularly timely in light of the recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions striking down portions of the Defense of Marriage Act and Prop. 8. Ervin, who edited Tulane’s literary journal, *The Tulane Review*, is completing his first year of law school at Duke University.

Jessica Klausner's article, "Equality and Difference: How Catholic Women in Louisiana Reacted to the Struggle for Equal Rights," illuminates the history of conservative Louisiana Catholic women's opposition to the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) during the 1970s. This article is drawn from a chapter of Klausner's senior honors thesis, "Women of Faith: Feminism and Catholicism in Louisiana," which draws upon archival collections at the Newcomb Archives and Loyola University. Klausner contributes to a growing body of scholarship that considers how some women became vociferous opponents of laws and policies that would have expanded women's claims to equality and full citizenship. As the title of her article suggests, Klausner found that many women worried that they would have to sacrifice the privileges they enjoyed as wives and mothers if men and women were viewed equally before the law. Klausner is completing basic training with the U.S. Army.