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# Wilson College conference studies leadership differences

CHAMBERSBURG, Pa. — As women increasingly enter key positions of leadership they must understand that women sometimes react differently to problems and opportunities than their male counterparts.

These gender-based differences may confuse the female leader who isn't attuned to the political systems at work in the organization or board room.

Thus women leaders must learn how to recognize organizational systems and how to operate effectively through those systems to attain their goals, says Jinx Melia, co-author of the book "Why Jenny Can't Lead" and speaker at the Alumnae Leadership Conference today through Oct. 5 at Wilson College.

Melia will speak about "Practicing Leadership — Learning to

Understand the Male Dominant System" at 8 p.m. Oct. 4 in the Havens Science Center.

Melia is also co-founder of Operational Politics, Inc., which offers training programs that help employees understand how political systems operate within organizations. Some of her clients have included the Central Intelligence Agency, the U.S. departments of justice, transportation and commerce, and the U.S. Naval Academy.

Melia is an adjunct professor at Georgetown University and at the University of Southern California at Los Angeles. She holds an M.Ed. in counseling from George Mason University.

She will be one of several speakers addressing an anticipated 100 alumnae who will be attending the

conference from the mid-Atlantic states.

The keynote speaker will be Anita L. Bradshaw, staff member responsible for training and professional development at VOLUNTEER — The National Center in Arlington, Va.

Also scheduled to attend will be Margaret Chase Smith who will receive the Wilson College Presidential Award. Sen. Smith served her Maine constituents for 33 years (1940-1973) during the administrations of six U.S. presidents. She received her first honorary doctorate degree from Wilson College in 1945.

Workshops, skills development sessions and familiarization tours will be held for the alumnae during the three-day conference at the southcentral Pennsylvania conference.