



Women's Voice

Illinois State University

Volume 9, Issue 3, January/February 2004

From the Director: Women's History Month

Sandra D. Harmon, Acting Director

March is Women's History Month, designated by Congress in 1987 as a time when schools and communities across the country would provide special programming devoted to women's history and contemporary issues. The roots for the month-long celebration go back to 1978 when the Sonoma County, California, Commission on the Status of Women initiated women's history week. The Sonoma County group chose March 8, International Women's Day, as the focal point of the week to give an international and multicultural perspective to the planned events and to celebrate women's role in the paid labor force.

International Women's Day, itself, dates back to the early twentieth century when the first was held on March 11, 1911, in Austria, Denmark, Germany, and Switzerland where over one million women and men attended rallies. Organized in large measure by German socialist Clara Zetkin, it was actually inspired by the Socialist Party of America's National Woman's Day held on February 18, 1909.

The most famous International Women's Day was that of February 25 (Julian calendar then in use in Russia) or March 8 (Gregorian or modern style calendar), 1917. On that day women in St. Petersburg struck "for bread and peace." Their strike merged with riots that spread throughout the city culminating in the February Revolution that toppled Czar Nicholas. March 8 then became the annual date of International Women's Day. However, with its socialist and communist connotations, the day fell out of favor in the United States until it was made the focal point of Women's History Week in 1978.

Two years after the first Women's History Week in California, Illinois Governor Thompson proclaimed the week of March 2-8, 1980, as Illinois Women's

History Week. Illinois State University was one of many universities and community organizations sponsoring special programs that week. March 1981 marked the first National Women's History Week designated by a Congressional resolution introduced by the odd couple of Representative Barbara Mikulski, a liberal Democrat from Maryland, and Senator Orrin Hatch, conservative Republican from Utah. Illinois State University has celebrated Women's History Week, and later Month beginning in 1987, every year since 1980.

As I was looking through my folders on past Women's History Months, I came across an item from the March 1982 issue of *The Social Studies Professional*, the newsletter of the National Council for the Social Studies. It was the "President's Message" from James Banks, then president of the NCSS. He wrote, "The First National Women's History Week comes at an ironic and perplexing time in our nation's history. The future of the Equal Rights Amendment is uncertain. Many women are ambivalent about the goals and directions of the women's rights movement. A conservative movement pervades the nation and threatens to erode many of the symbolic and actual gains women have made during the 1960s and 1970s. The new conservative groups and their ideologies are a serious threat to the civil rights of women and to other victims of discrimination, such as religious minorities, handicapped individuals, and persons and groups that have alternative lifestyles and values." He warned against having Women's History Week become "a symbolic exercise of self-adulation without raising the level of the citizenry's consciousness about the need to increase opportunities for women in our society." And he said, "Women's History Week is an opportune time for educators to analyze the environments of their institutions and to determine the extent to which they reflect institutionalized discrimination and to take actions to make them more democratic." (p. 2)

Unfortunately, his message still seems timely today, twenty some years later, as we once again observe Women's History Month and International Women's Day. For more information about Women's History Month and International Women's Day see <http://www.nwhp.org> and <http://www.un.org/ecosodev/geninfo/women/womday97.html>. ■

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Visit our website at: <http://www.womenstudies.ilstu.edu>

WOMEN'S STUDIES EVENTS

Peace and Conflict Resolution Studies Lecture

On February 27, Women's Studies will co-sponsor Dr. Ruthann Johansen to address the idea "Who Am I This Time? A Search for the Source of the Ubiquitous Human Need for Stories."

Dr. Johansen is Associate Professor in the Department of American Studies at the University of Notre Dame. In her lecture, she will begin with the assumption that story telling is an essential human act and then examine the various purposes of stories and the forms they can take, such as in conflict situations.

The lecture is February 27, 2004 from 3:30 to 5:30 PM in ISU's Turner Hall, Room 200 (Corner Main Street and College Avenue). Refreshments will be provided. Contact Dr. Janie Leatherman at (309) 438-8923 for more information. ■

Panel to Help Faculty Listen and Refer Students in Crisis

We've all had times when a student comes to our office hours to get more than just help on an assignment. When students trust us, they may feel safe in divulging issues they are struggling with as a way of asking for help. It's our job as faculty members to listen respectfully and to direct them to resources that can help them in ways we can't. Because of who we are and the issues we teach Women's Studies faculty are more likely to be approached by students facing eating disorders, dating violence, sexual assault, harassment, or childcare issues.

"Students in Crisis: How Can We Help," offers faculty that chance to learn how to listen to students and refer them to on-campus services that can help them. **Please join us March 1st at noon in the Women's Studies Program office (234 Rachael Cooper Hall) for a brown-bag panel discussion with Gail Trimpe-Morrow, Kerri Calvert, Diane Feasley and Sandy Colbs. ■**

Feminist Pedagogy Workshops

The third of four workshops on feminist pedagogy took place Wednesday afternoon, February 11. Dr. Perle Besserman, English, spoke about her experiences teaching global women's literature from a feminist perspective. Discussion centered on issues such as lack of background knowledge on the part of students, receptivity and non-receptivity of students, anger and the uses of anger in social movements and ways to deal with these issues in the classroom.



During the second part of the workshop, five Women's Studies students reflected on their experiences in Women's Studies classes. They were Lindsay Barnes, Rita Bourell, Sarah Ehlers, Val Laymon, and Ryan Rademacher. Other students in attendance joined the discussion. According to the students, Women's Studies classes tended to promote discussion, were interdisciplinary and multicultural, asked students to think outside the box, required students to engage in the material by writing and discussing, helped



The last of the feminist pedagogy workshops will be held on April 8, from 3:00-5:00 in DeGarmo 551. Workshop leaders Perle Besserman, Becca Chase, Maura Toro-Morn and Sandra Harmon will lead a discussion on "Feminist Pedagogy at Illinois State University: Tales from the Classroom."

Calendar of ISU Women's Studies Events

Friday, February 27, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Peace and Conflict Resolution Studies lecture by Dr. Ruthann Johansen, "Who Am I This Time? A Search for the Source of the Ubiquitous Human Need for Stories"
Turner Hall, Room 200, refreshments provided

Monday, March 1, noon

Brown bag workshop "Students in Crisis: How Can We Help?"
Women's Studies Resource Room, Rachel Cooper 234

Monday, March 1, 6-8 p.m.

Women's History Month Kickoff Reception sponsored by the Office of Intercultural Programs and Services
Circus Room, Bone Student Center

Friday, March 26, 8:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Ninth Annual Women's Studies Symposium.
Rosa Parks Room, Watterson Towers

Wednesday, April 7, noon

International and Global Studies Seminar speaker Dr. Julie Webber, "Transforming Gender and Society in a 'New World Order': The Challenge Before this Generation."
Stevenson 401, free pizza lunch served

Wednesday, April 7, 7:00 p.m.

Guest speaker, Professor Luz del Alba Acevedo, chair of Political Science at the University of Puerto Rico, Humacao, and editor of *Telling to Live: Latina Feminist Testimonios*
Circus Room, Bone Student Center

Thursday, April 8, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Feminist Pedagogy Workshop: Feminist Pedagogy at Illinois State University: Tales from the Classroom. Discussion led by Professors Perle Besserman, Becca Chase, Maura Toro-Morn and Sandra Harmon
DeGarmo 551.

An equal opportunity/affirmative action university encouraging diversity.

WOMEN'S STUDIES SYMPOSIUM

Professor Berenice Malka Fisher to be Keynote Speaker at the Ninth Annual Women's Studies Symposium



Berenice Malka Fisher

Ninth Annual Women's Studies Symposium

Undergraduate and Graduate Student Presentations

Friday, March 26, 2004

8:45 AM to 4:30 PM

Keynote Address at 1:00 PM

**"Feminist Talk and the Problem of Trust: Implications for
Education, Activism, and Democracy"**

Rosa Parks Room, Watterson Towers

Berenice Malka Fisher has just retired from New York University where she was Professor of Educational Philosophy. She co-founded the School of Education's Women's Studies Commission and created the University-wide faculty development Seminar on Teaching Social Justice.

Her feminist articles and essays have appeared in numerous journals and anthologies. Topics include shame and guilt in the women's movement, how disability affects friendships among women, the impact of women as role models, a feminist theory of caring, the meaning of childlessness for women, and the theory and practice of feminist pedagogy. Her volume *No Angel in the Classroom: Teaching Through Feminist Discourse* received the Distinguished Publication Award for 2002 from the Association for Women in Psychology.

She is active in feminist and peace issues and belongs to a women's theater ensemble, Shock of Gray, that creates and performs lesbian and feminist material. Born and raised in Chicago, she makes her home in New York City together with her life-partner.

Admission to the symposium and luncheon is free, but luncheon reservation by March 23 is required. (See final page of newsletter for registration form.)

For more information about the Women's Studies Symposium or to make a luncheon reservation by March 23, call or e-mail Rozel White at 438-2947, wstudies@ilstu.edu.

This program is organized and sponsored by Women's Studies Program with additional assistance from the Department of Physics.

If you need a special accommodation to fully participate in this event, please contact Women's Studies at (309) 438-2947. Please allow sufficient time to arrange the accommodation.

Printed on recycled paper. 

WOMEN'S STUDIES STUDENTS AND ALUMNI

Sarah Ehlers Wins Achievement Award



Sarah Ehlers

Sarah Ehlers, an English major, is the winner of the 2004 Women's Studies Achievement Award. The award is given to a student who has maintained high academic standing overall and in the minor and who has engaged in campus or community service, especially service on behalf of women's issues. The award is presented at the College of Arts and Sciences Awards Ceremony held this year on February 6.

Sarah is a Robert G. Bone Scholar, the highest honor bestowed by the University on undergraduates. She has been continuously on the Dean's List since Spring of 2001 and is an Illinois State University Provost Scholar. She participates in a number of student honor and service organizations and serves on the College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee and the Preview Advisory Committee. She is a volunteer advocate with Stepping Stones, the rape crisis center for McLean County, a position that requires completion of an intensive 40-hour training mandated by the Illinois Coalition for Sexual Assault. She is features editor of *The Daily Vidette* and writes a weekly column, which often focuses on women's issues. ■

Welcome to Our New Women's Studies Students!

New Women's Studies Minors

April Day- Sociology Tanya Kryzak-Psychology
Ralph Hardesty- English Brea Moon-Politics and Gov., Spanish, Int'l St.

New Graduate Certificate Students

Shushan Abagyan-English Margaret Iha- Politics and Gov.
Stephanie Guedet- English Devona Mallory- English
Jennifer Hootman-Student at large Jenna Polk- English
David Hurn- Student at large

Alumni News

Megan Volpert (English, 2003) is enrolled in the MFA program in English at Louisiana State University. She is studying poetry writing with Andrei Codrescu, founder and editor of the journal *Exquisite Corpse* and commentator for National Public Radio. She is also on the staff of the *New Delta Review*, which is housed at LSU. She and four other people will perform her script *Shadow Boxing* for the LSU English Department's 14th annual Mardi Gras Conference on Language and Literature. She wrote the piece last spring as part of her Women's Studies Independent Study project, "Performance Studies in Transgender Musicals", for Professors Ann Haugo and Cynthia Huff.

Christy Eyre (History, '02) is enrolled in the University of Michigan's Graduate School of Information, in the archives and records management program. ■

New Summer Women's Studies Course Offering

Women's Studies is proud to announce a new course offering for the summer, WS 391: Women's Studies Seminar: "Women in Management."

This seminar will examine the role of women in the modern corporation. The readings and discussions will focus on such issues as the glass ceiling, work/life balance, gender discrimination, diversity, leadership, and career strategies, among others. The topics will be covered using a mix of readings, guest speakers, videos, and cases. Active participation and a strong commitment to the learning community are expected.

The class will be taught by Dale Fitzgibbons, Associate Professor, Management and Quantitative Methods, and will meet for four weeks from May 17 to June 11, 2004, from 10:25-1:10 MTWR in Williams 123. ■



For information on Women's Studies course offerings for the 2004 Summer Term and Fall Semester, visit the Women's Studies website at www.womenstudies.ilstu.edu

Interested in Graduate Work in Women's/Gender Studies?

The Women's Studies office has information on graduate programs in Women's/Gender Studies from across the nation. We have information on requirements, core classes, electives, and thesis options from each of the following universities.

The University of Alabama
The University of Arizona
The Claremont Grad School [Calif.]
Saddleback College [California]
San Diego State University
University of California, Los Angeles
UCLA [California]
University of Southern California
Metropolitan State College-Denver
University of Connecticut
Southern Connecticut State Univ.
University of Hawaii-Manoa
Illinois Wesleyan University
Roosevelt University [Illinois]
University of Chicago
Agnes Scott College [Georgia]
Emory University [Georgia]
Georgia State University

Harvard University [Massachusetts]
Loyola University [Illinois]
Northwestern University
Southern University at Carbondale
University of Illinois at Chicago
University of Illinois at Springfield
Western Illinois University
Indiana University at Bloomington
Purdue University [Indiana]
University of Northern Iowa
Iowa State University
Wichita State University [Kansas]
University of Maryland, College Park
Towson State University [Maryland]
University of Massachusetts-Amherst
Clark University [Massachusetts]
Smith College [Massachusetts]
Simmons College [Massachusetts]

Michigan State University
Mankato State University [Minnesota]
University of Minnesota
Stephans College [Missouri]
The University of Mississippi
University of Nevada
Rutgers University [New Jersey]
Drew University at Madison [New Jersey]
The University of New Mexico
The City University of New York
State University of New York
Cornell University [New York]
The University at Albany [New York]
University of Cincinnati [Ohio]
Wake Forest University [Ohio]
The University of Akron [Ohio]
Ohio University
University of South Dakota

University of Oklahoma
Oakland University [Michigan]
Oregon State University
University of Pittsburgh [Pennsylvania]
Brown University [Rhode Island]
University of Rhode Island
University of South Carolina
Middle Tennessee State University
Vanderbilt University [Tennessee]
Southern Methodist University [Texas]
Texas A&M University
University of Virginia
Old Dominion University [Virginia]
The George Washington Univ. [D.C.]
The American University [D.C.]
The Mount Vernon Institute [D.C.]
West Virginia University
University of Wisconsin-Madison

WOMEN'S STUDIES FACULTY



Alison Bailey

Lee Brasseur (English) received the Outstanding College Researcher Award from the College of Arts and Sciences.

Kass Fleisher (English) published *The Bear River Massacre and the Making of History*.

Deborah Gentry (Family and Consumer Sciences) recently published "Contemporary family life education: Thirty years of challenge and progress," in M. Coleman and L. H. Ganong (Eds.), *Handbook of Contemporary Families: Considering the Past, Contemplating the Future*, pp. 538-554. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Barbara Heyl (Sociology) received the Outstanding University Teacher Award-Category I at the Founders Day Convocation on February 19.

Chris Horvath (Philosophy and Biological Sciences) received the Strand Diversity Award at Founders Day Convocation on February 19.

Cythia Kukla (Art) is invited to be the keynote speaker for a three-day education symposium at the Cincinnati Art Museum this summer in conjunction with the exhibition "Coming of Age in Ancient Greece." She will also be teaching a week-long watercolor seminar at the Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts which is accredited through the University of Tennessee.

Janie Leatherman (Politics and Government) has published *From Cold War to Democratic Peace: Third Parties, Peaceful Change and the OSCE*. Syracuse University Press, 2003.

Marla Reese-Weber (Psychology) co-published (with C.L. Clawson) "The amount and timing of parent-adolescent sexual communication as predictors of late adolescent sexual risk taking behaviors," in *The Journal of Sex Research*, 40, 256-265. She received a \$1,400 grant from the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues for *Defining violence in sibling and romantic relationships: Differences in methodology*.

Torri Thompson (English) received the Outstanding College Service Award from the College of Arts and Sciences.

Maura Toro-Morn (Sociology) and **Sue Sprecher** (Sociology) published "A Cross-Cultural Comparison of Mate Preferences: The United States vs The People's Republic of China (PRC) in the *Journal of Comparative Family Studies*, Vol. 34 (2), 2003.

Maura Toro-Morn (Sociology) co-published (with Marixsa Alicea) "Gendered Geographies of Home: Mapping Second and Third Generation Puerto Ricans' Sense of Home" in *Gender and U.S. Immigration: Contemporary Trends*, edited by Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003.

Mary Trouille (Foreign Languages) has published "Buried Alive: Genlis's Gothic Tale of Marital Violence." Eleventh International Congress on the Enlightenment, Los Angeles, August 3-10, 2003. And, "The Dialectic of Good and Evil, Faith and Irreligion, in Sade's *Marquise de Gange*" Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Chicago, November, 2003. ■

Women's History Month Presentation At Heartland Community College

On Tuesday, March 2, 6:30 p.m., **Dr. Stacey Robertson**, Director of Women's Studies at Bradley University, will present "Opportunity, Struggle and Danger: The Myths and Realities of Frontier Life for Women," at Community Commons Building Room 1407, Heartland Community College, 1500 W. Raab Road, Normal, Illinois. Dr. Robertson will discuss how frontier women experienced the West as a place for opportunity, danger and difficulty. The program is sponsored by the Heartland Community College chapter of the American Association for Women in Community Colleges (AAWCC). The event is free and open to the public. For more information call (309) 268-8176. ■

**Women's Voice
Illinois State University
Women's Studies Program
Rachel Cooper 2nd Floor
Campus Box 4260
Normal, IL 61790-4260**

**Ninth Annual
WOMEN'S STUDIES SYMPOSIUM**

FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 2004
8:45 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

ROSA PARKS ROOM
WATTERSON TOWERS

KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT 1:00 P.M.

Pre-registration required for free lunch. You may register by returning the adjacent form or sending an email to wstudies@ilstu.edu.

Contact Women's Studies for further information by telephone (309-438-2947).

If you need a special accommodation to fully participate in this event, please contact Women's Studies at 309-438-2947. Please allow sufficient time to arrange the accommodation.

**Ninth Annual
Women's Studies Symposium**

Friday, March 26, 2004

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR FREE LUNCH,
PLEASE RETURN NO LATER THAN

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zipcode _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Plan to eat lunch: Yes No

Please detach and mail, e-mail or Fax to:

**Women's Studies Program, Illinois State University, 237 Rachel
Cooper, 2nd Floor, Campus Box 4260, Normal, IL 61790-4260.**

Phone: (309) 438-2947, Fax: (309) 438-5104

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