Michael Kimmel continued

The symposium was also sponsored by the History Department, Sociology and Anthropology Department, Multicultural Cultural and Co-curricular Programming Advisory Committee (MECCPAC), and Dean of Students Office diversity initiative, College of Art and Sciences, Office of the Provost, and Office of the Provost/Sage Trust.

WGS welcomes new faculty member

The program is happy to welcome Dawn Rae Davis to campus. Davis will be an instructional assistant professor starting in the fall.

In addition to teaching two sections of the popular Women, Gender, and Society class, she will be teaching a WGS seminar on Gender, Hunger, and Food Politics. The course is designed to explore the tensions between the fact that women around the world bear primary responsibility for ensuring that families are fed and the fact that one in five children in the U.S. struggles to have enough to eat.

Davis comes to Illinois State from the Department of Gender Studies at Indiana University. She has additional teaching interests in feminist and queer theory, transnational and global feminisms, popular culture, postcolonial studies, critical race studies, politics of the body, politics of love, feminist film studies, sex radical history, and gender and incarceration.

Art! Art! Art! Challenge to Your Balance and Conglomerates

The following M.F.A. students held shows during the 2012-2013 school year in Rachel Cooper.

Marissa Webb's photography exhibit focuses on her 19-year old sister, Kaitlin, who has Rett syndrome, a disorder that affects the nervous system and can lead to developmental digression. Webb's project, Challenge to Your Balance, consists of a series of photographs that capture aspects of Kaitlin's daily life. In particular, Webb turns her lens on Kaitlin's relationships to her family members, her constant need for care, and the objects over which she has total control and possession. The artist has slowly expanded her project to focus on the relationships her sister has within the family. These images not only reveal the psychological dimensions of family dynamics, but also raise questions about love and normalcy.

Megan Kathol Bersett, M.F.A. '13, created the painting series Conglomerates, which resulted from a project she did in southeastern Utah last summer. Her six watercolor and gouache works are based on observational drawings of the desert. These abstracted images visualize how landscape is seen as an object available for consumption instead of a space or a scape.

Join ISU WGS on Facebook

The WGS program has moved its alumni page to a general Illinois State University WGS group on Facebook. Keep in touch by liking us at Facebook.com/ISUWGS.

From the director

Congratulations to our recent graduates and welcome to our new alumni! I continue to be humbled and amazed at the stories I hear from our alums about the differences you are making in your communities, families, and workplaces.

You are raising a new generation, fundraising for domestic violence shelters, mentoring girls, becoming lawyers, training for roller derby, lobbying legislators and policymakers, practicing the healing arts, entering the academy as lecturers and professors, directing youth theater groups, joining the Peace Corps, advocating for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) causes, caring for your elders, teaching in our high schools, writing novels and poetry, creating art, co-editing new journals, finishing doctorates, writing blogs, singing, administering, and starting your own businesses. You are amazing! You are inspiring!

The women's and gender studies (WGS) program continues to grow and change in new and positive ways. This year Tom Gerschick took over as our acting advisor: The number of minors and certificate students has grown. We have welcomed seven new affiliated faculty members: Shelly Clever (Criminal Justice Sciences), Jennifer Howell (Languages, Literatures, and Cultures), Jakeet Singh (Politics and Government), Diane Dean (Educational Administration and Foundations), K. Megan Hopper '02, M.S. '06 (Communication), Sudipa Topdar Singh (Politics and Government), and Reecia Orzech (Geography-Geology).

This fall Dawn Rae Davis will be joining us as our new instructional assistant professor: We’re already excited about her new seminar on gender, poverty, and food politics.

This year our 18th annual symposium featured presentations by 21 students on topics such as jealousy and attraction on Facebook, global indigenous feminisms, new perspectives on women in the classical world, historical perspectives on technical communication, gender identity, vulnerability and female embodiment, transnational feminism, and feminism in pop culture. Michael Kimmel delivered the keynote address, “Gayland: The Perilous World Where Boys Become Men,” to an audience of more than 235 people.

I enjoy hearing from you and hope that you’ll let me know if you are ever in town!

In solidarity,

Alison Bailey
Chelsea Gulbransen and Mallie Feltner

The Anne Semlack Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Mallie Feltner, a political science major minoring in women’s and gender studies. Feltner has volunteered as a peer educator through Planned Parenthood’s Teen Awareness Group (TAG), an educational outreach program educating teens about sexuality, reproductive health, and healthy relationships. She is also active as an executive board member in the on-campus Feminist Led Activist Movement to Empower (F.L.A.M.E.). The Dorothy E. Lee Scholarship is awarded to promising nontraditional female students who are driven to attain a higher education. Alicia Atkins was this year’s awardee.

Each year the WGS Excellence Award recognizes one student for her or his academic excellence and outstanding contributions to the women’s and gender studies program. This year we were happy to present the award to Rebecca Sack, who majored in organizational and leadership communication. Sack worked as the program’s communication intern. She plans to dedicate her life to empowering women through employment with women’s nonprofit organizations.

Dorothy E. Lee remembered

Women’s and gender studies lost a good friend, colleague, philanthropist, and activist this year. Dorothy E. Lee, 84, passed away October 2, 2012, in Fort Myers, Florida. She has completed her first year of teaching at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater last year. She accepted a lecturer position in the Department of Languages and Literatures at the University of Kentucky.

Charlotte Adams ’11, M.S. ’13, served as the WGS graduate assistant for two years. She has just graduated with her master’s in communication studies. She plans to return to Chicago and find an activist niche in the city while she finds her calling in the professional world.

Rebecca Sack ’13 served as WGS’s first social media coordinator. She is responsible for updating the program’s new Web page, starting WGS’s revised Facebook page, and helping the program with outreach. She plans to take these skills and apply them to a career in communication at a women’s nonprofit organization. She graduated magna cum laude and received the Women’s and Gender Studies Achievement Award.

WGS program celebrates scholarship recipients at 18th annual research symposium

Every year the WGS program honors four scholarship recipients at the student research symposium. Recognition of recipients’ scholarly accomplishments and contributions to the community reflect the program’s efforts to publicly recognize and celebrate its outstanding undergraduate and graduate students.

This year the Liel lemon Laurneri Scholarship was awarded to Chelsea Gulbransen, a theatre major who wants to use her talents to combine creative and artistic outlets with social change.

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