

Women's Voice

Illinois State University

Volume 9, Issue 4, March/April 2004

From the Director

Sandra D. Harmon, Acting Director

Announcements

I am pleased to announce that **Alison Bailey** will serve as Acting Director of Women's Studies for next year. Associate Dean Sam Catanzaro of the College of Arts and Sciences and a search committee selected Bailey in an on-campus search. She served this semester as Acting Assistant Director and was involved in the day-to-day operation of the program.

Alison and I are very proud that one of our minors **Sarah Ehlers** was selected to give the undergraduate commencement speech for the College of Arts and Sciences, an honor for which we nominated her. Earlier in the semester she received the 2003-2004 Women's Studies Achievement Award.

This will be my last column for *Women's Voice*. I will retire this summer after 34 years at Illinois State University, the last nine serving either as Assistant Director and Academic Advisor or Acting Director of Women's Studies. For 31 of those years I taught history of women courses, so I had the opportunity to be part of Women's Studies from its inception on this campus. It is a good program made even stronger by the recent addition of the graduate certificate and by all the talented faculty, staff, and students who contribute their time and efforts to the program.

The Equal Rights Amendment

The other day Val Laymon, a Women's Studies minor, came to see me with her proposal for an independent study project over the summer. She entitled her project "MIA, ERA: Revamping our Rights." What a good title. She confessed that she and her generation of students know little if anything about the ERA, but she does know that there is still a need for it. She was very excited about the prospect of investigating the amendment, what it would do, and why it failed, but more excited about the activist part of her project—to generate interest on campus and get people thinking about the ERA again.

She has chosen a good time for her project because there is, indeed, an effort underway to revive the amendment. Many proponents believe that Congress can repeal or modify the time limit it placed on the state ratification process when it passed the amendment by overwhelming majorities in 1972. In fact, Congress did extend the original seven-year limit by three years in 1979. That argument is bolstered by the fact that the "Madison Amendment," James Madison, that is, concerning Congressional pay raises, became the 27th Amendment to the Constitution in 1992 after a 203-year ratification period. This line of reasoning has led to the three-state strategy which holds that the ERA, with Congressional approval or court ruling, can be ratified by action of three more states in addition to the 35 states that ratified in the period between 1972 and 1977.

Illinois was one of the states that did not ratify the amendment in the 70s. An anomaly, it was the only industrialized northern state to fail to do so. Illinois' failure, in and of itself, would be a good research project. In fact, one of the student papers presented at the Women's Studies Symposium examined the role of Phyllis Schlafly in the fight against the ERA in Illinois. While the amendment received multiple majority votes in the Illinois General Assembly, it could never muster the three fifths super majority that the then Illinois rules, and only the Illinois rules, required. I can remember well the campaign for ratification here in our legislative district that was led by the late Luellen Laurenti. That was back in the days when each legislative district had three representatives plus a senator, all four of whom from our district (a Republican senator, two Republican representatives and one Democratic representative) were extremely conservative. We worked mightily to raise public and editorial support for the amendment and to try to sway our elected officials. We did raise public support but couldn't convince our elected officials. None of them ever voted for the amendment. I remember one public meeting when the state senator said he would not vote for it because his wife belonged on a pedestal. It didn't help to have one member of the General Assembly refer on the floor of the House to proponents of the amendment as "brainless, braless, broads."

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

FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS / MENTORING NETWORK

(From the Director – Continued from Page 1)

While there has been much progress toward ending legal sex discrimination since then, discrimination and disregard for women's human rights are not a thing of the past nor is the progress irreversible. This has been demonstrated recently, for example, in the attempts to gut Title IX of the Educational Amendments Act, the narrow re-authorization of the Violence against Women Act, and the continuing refusal of the U.S. Senate to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Even the most recent Supreme Court case regarding the application of the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment to sex discrimination, *United States v. Virginia*, 1996, was decided within the traditional assumption that males hold rights and females must prove they hold them. (Roberta W. Francis, "Reconstituting the Equal Rights Amendment: Policy Implications for Sex Discrimination," <http://www.equalrightsamendment.org/APSA%202001.pdf>)

There is still reason to promote the Equal Rights Amendment and a ratification effort is under way in Illinois. In May 2003, the Illinois House passed a resolution to ratify the amendment 76 to 41 and the Senate Executive Committee passed the resolution out of committee 8-5. ERA activists are working on firming up the necessary Senate votes to complete the ratification process before the end of the current legislature in late 2004. Val and her friends and everyone who would like to see Illinois ratify the amendment can contact their state senators urging them to vote for the amendment so that "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex." ■

Women's Studies Faculty and Staff Accomplishments

Alison Bailey, Women's Studies and Philosophy participated on a panel on women and militarism at Bradley University in February. Her paper was "How Should Feminists Think about War and Militarism?" She also presented "Strategic Ignorance and the Logic of Purity" at the Society for Women in Philosophy meeting in Minneapolis.

The American Council on Consumer Interest (ACCI), appointed **Marie E. Canabal**, Family and Consumer Sciences, as their representative to the United Nations. She will act as liaison between the UN and ACCI as well as represent ACCI at UN briefings and attend NGO committee meetings relating to economic and consumer interests. She presented "Workers' Well-Being and Time for Additional Training: A Preliminary Analysis" with E.A. Delgado of the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, at the conference, Long Working Hours, Safety and Health: Toward a National Research Agenda, at the University of Maryland in April. In August she and Susan Winchip, FCS, and Klaus Schmidt, Technology, will present "Enhancing Communication and Technology Skills among Family and Consumer Science College Students: Collaborative Team Work Approaches" at the World Congress of the International Federation of Home Economics in Kyoto, Japan.

Sandra Harmon, Women's Studies, gave a Women's History Month presentation at the Lincoln Correctional Center women's prison in March. The exhibit on the Great Depression for which she is guest curator will open in late October at the McLean County History Museum.

Jeanne Howard, Social Work, co-authored *After Adoption*, a study of over 1,300 families who adopted children from the foster care system, with Social Work colleague Susan L. Smith. She continues to serve as co-director of the Center for Adoption Studies at Illinois State.

The Department of English named **Cynthia Huff** the department's Graduate Director.

Janie Leatherman, Politics and Government, served as program chair for the Peace Studies Section of the 2004 International Studies Association annual conference in Montreal, Canada, in March.

Val Moghadam, Women's Studies, who is on leave from Illinois State, has been appointed Chief of the Gender Section, in the Social and Human Sciences Sector of Unesco, in Paris. Her work will entail mainstreaming women and gender issues into the work of the sector, preparing a report for Beijing Plus 10, and special projects on women in Palestine, Iraq, and Central Africa.

In March, **Mary Trouille**, Foreign Languages, presented "Till Death Do Us Part: Sade's Gothic Tale of Wife-Murder in La Marquise de Gange" at the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies in Boston. She organized and served as chair for the Society's Women's Caucus Roundtable on "Women in Eighteenth-Century Studies."

Julie Webber, Politics and Government, is co-editor of the book *Expanding Curriculum Theorizing: Dis/Positions and Lines of Flight in Curriculum Studies* with William M. Reynolds, Lawrence Erlbaum Press, 2004 and contributed the chapter "Beyond God the Unconscious." Her article "Global Youth: The Great Divide" appeared in the Winter 2003/04 issue of *Workplace: A Journal of Academic Labor*. At the International Studies Association conference in Montreal in March, she presented "After Doubt: Philosophies without Human Rights in a Global Frame" and "Beyond Global Arrogance: The Avatars of New Transnational Spaces." In February, she appeared in the panel on women and militarism at Bradley University. Her talk was "The Hero and the Martyr: Militarized Masculinity, the Invisibility of Women and War before 9/11."

In February **Shari Zeck**, Arts Technology, gave a talk at Carleton College on Feminism, Female Bonding, and TV. ■



Women's Studies faculty Shari Zeck, Acting Dean Roberta Trites, Graduate Assistant Bethany Struebing, and Acting Assistant Director Alison Bailey

Women's Studies Supports Mentoring Network for Nontraditional Women Students

Women's Studies along with the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Departments of History and Sociology and Anthropology has supported the creation of a mentoring network that pairs women faculty and staff with nontraditional women students. The network was established last spring by Teri Farr, Sociology and Anthropology; Sandra Harmon, Women's Studies; and Patrice Olson and Julie Ruby, History, and assists nontraditional women students as they make the transition to life at Illinois State University. Currently over 40 mentors, including faculty and staff from all areas and academic departments on campus, who themselves were either nontraditional students at ISU or concerned with nontraditional student issues, are mentoring 45 women students.

The Women's Mentoring Network provides a variety of social and educational programming events along with one-on-one mentoring. The Network received the first place Team Excellence Award at the Founders Day Convocation in February.

More information on how to get involved with the Network is available from Teri Farr at 438-8669 or at tjarr@ilstu.edu. ■

WOMEN'S STUDIES SYMPOSIUM



Berenice Malka Fisher

Ninth Annual Women's Studies Symposium

The Ninth Annual Women's Studies Symposium took place Friday, March 26, in the Rosa Parks Room of Watterson Towers. Over 130 people attended the day-long event that featured presentations by undergraduate and graduate students. Feminist scholar and activist, Berenice Malka Fisher, who recently retired from New York University where she was Professor of Educational Philosophy, gave the keynote address. Her address, "Feminist Talk and the Problem of Trust: Implications for Education, Activism, and Democracy," generated questions and discussion from the audience.



Panel 1

The opening and closing sessions featured graduate students in Professor Maura Toro-Morn's Feminist Theory and Methodological Issues class who read from autobiographies they had prepared for the class. The readings by Devona Mallory, Kate Schenk, Mel Freitag, Devon Fitzgerald, Shushan Avagyan, Debbie Armstrong, and Beth Iha were by turns moving, funny, and inspiring as they reflected on the roots of their feminism.

Undergraduate students Stefanie Remus, Marc Helgeson, Beth Stevens, and Brea Moon presented papers on women's activism and social movements from the anti-feminist work of Marabel Morgan and Phyllis Schlafly to women's resistance in Afghanistan to Charlene Teeter's crusade against offensive school mascots. Two English students, graduate student Devona Mallory and undergraduate Ryan Rademacher examined aspects of the work of Zora Neale Hurston and Nella Larsen. Graduate art student Darcie Punke spoke on ecofeminism and its influence on her work while undergraduate art student Heather Donaldson examined the presentation of gender in photography.



Panel 2

Women's Studies minors Lindsay Barnes, Rita Bourell, Sarah Ehlers, Val Laymon, and Ryan Rademacher gave their reflections on the pedagogies employed in women's studies classes and engaged the audience in discussion. The session on "Performing Gender: Drama and Resistance" featured papers by Katherine Smith on female sexual abuse plays, Jill Swartzmiller on women and Greek drama, and Christina Allaback on the not-so-alternative gender roles of the Phish tour community.

Thanks go to professors Maura Toro-Morn (Sociology), Kyle Ciani (History), Nancy Tolson (English), Ann Haugo (Theatre), Sandra Harmon (Women's Studies), Janet Wilson (Theatre), and Becca Chase (English) for moderating the student panels and special thanks to Rozel White and the student staff of Women's Studies, Bethany Struebing, Karen Dudek, and Ryan Rademacher for making arrangements and assisting with the symposium. ■



Panel 4

**9th Annual
Women's Studies
Symposium
March 26, 2004
Rosa Parks Room
Watterson Towers**



Panel 5



Panel 6



Panel 7

PHOTOS AND RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT



“The Making of a Latina Feminist: Challenging Common Sense”

April 7, 2004

Professor Luz del Alba Acevedo, chair of Political Science at the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras, with Women’s Studies faculty Professor Maura Toro-Morn.



“Feminist Talk and the Problem of Trust: Implications for Education, Activism, and Democracy”

Ninth Annual Women’s Studies Symposium
March 26, 2004

Guest speaker Berenice Malka Fisher at the Ninth Annual Women’s Studies Symposium.

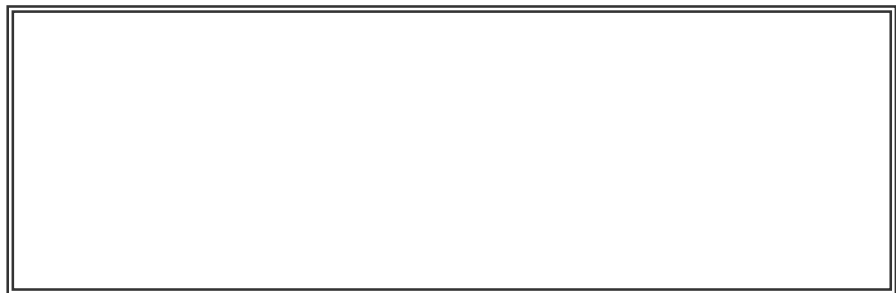
“African-American Women’s Literature”

Ninth Annual Women’s Studies Symposium
March 26, 2004

Symposium presenters Devona Mallory (left) and Ryan Rademacher (right) discuss their panel presentations with Professor Nancy Tolson.



You are cordially invited to a reception in honor and celebration of Dr. Sandra Harmon for her retirement after 34 years of service at Illinois State University.



Dr. Harmon has been part of the Women’s Studies program at Illinois State since its inception 32 years ago. Throughout those years, she has taught courses on the history of women. For the past nine years, she has served as either Assistant Director and Academic Advisor or Acting Director of the Women’s Studies program. We wish Dr. Harmon well and thank her for the impact she has made on countless students and to the women’s rights movement.

WOMEN'S STUDIES STUDENTS

Women's Studies Students

Debbie Armstrong will receive her Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies in August. She is a masters student in Family and Consumer Sciences and will continue her work in that program in the fall. At the Ninth Annual Women's Studies Symposium she presented an autobiographical paper, "Get Personal: Explore What You Really Believe," prepared for WS 490: Feminist Theory and Methodological Issues. She works in the Student Information Services System area of the Registrar's Office.

Rita Bourell will graduate in May with a bachelors degree in Sociology. She participated in a study abroad program in Ireland, has served as a Passages orientation leader, captained an intramural volleyball team, and completed a Women's Studies professional practice internship with the States Attorney's Child Support Office. She is currently involved in teaching four-year-olds at a local church and is a Big Sister for a ten-year old girl at the Boys and Girls Club. She plans to attend graduate school at DePaul University in the fall.

Sarah Elhers will graduate in May with a B.A. in English and minors in Spanish and Women's Studies. She has been active with the *Daily Vidette*, the Preview Program, Red Tassel/Mortar Board, Sigma Tau Delta, Stepping Stones, and the Wesley Foundation. In the fall she will enter the M.A. program in English Language and Literature at the University of Connecticut.

Grace Foote Johns will receive her Graduate Certificate in August. She is a doctoral student in Educational Administration and Foundations and Assistant to the Chair of the Department of Physics. She was recently honored for her thirteen years of work with Illinois State's annual Expanding Your Horizons Through Math, Science and Technology Conference for girls in 5th through 10th grade at the March 20 conference this year. She has been a member of the EYH Board of Directors since 1991 and has assumed many roles working with the Workshop Leader Committee, in public relations and outreach, in designing conference brochures, as well as serving as a workshop leader and exhibits person for the Physics Department. She also designs a Women's History Month Exhibit each year for the Normal Public Library as part of the EYH Conference's outreach efforts. The 2004 exhibit, "Women in Science Careers Pen Pals Project," involved women professionals responding by letter to Delevan High School women student questions about careers in math, space science, chemistry, technology, the environment, biology, and computers. The exhibit was featured in the March 12, 2004, *Pantagraph* article, "Math, Science Not for Girls? Nonsense."

Shara Netterstrom, a May graduate with a B.S. in political science, will attend Chicago-Kent Law School in the fall where she will concentrate on international law. She served an internship with Students' Legal Services this year and completed her second year as a member of the ISU Mock Trial Team. The team took second place at regionals and competed at the national tournament held at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, several weeks ago.

Darcie Punke will receive her MFA in painting and Graduate Certificate in May. She presented "Defining Ecofeminism" at the Women's Studies Symposium in March and had her thesis show "Tapestry of Ecosystems," in early April. She received the graduate student of the year award for 2002-03 from the Graduate Student Association. She currently teaches Painting 1 for non-art majors. After graduation she plans to move to Idaho to study petroglyphs in the Zion Mountains and to research the volcanoes and rainforests of Washington State. Her goal is to be a painter and ecoartist in the Pacific Northwest. Among her long-term plans are a trip to Australia to study aborigines and their art and culture and the creation of a work of art in the United States that discusses the reservations and rights of Native Americans.

Ryan Rademacher, a junior in English, will participate in the April 25 March for Women's Lives in Washington, D.C. He is very excited to be participating

in an event that will become a historical marker of the next wave of feminism. He is a student employee of Women's Studies and the University Telefund Center.

Julie Simonsen will receive a B.A. in English in May. Since 2001 she has worked for Illinois State University's Night Operations as Area Supervisor of the West Campus team. She volunteers with P.A.T.H., the local crisis hotline. She plans to move to Chicago to seek employment after graduation. ■

Congratulations on Graduating!

Women's Studies Minors:

Nicole Berg	April Day	Julie Simonsen
Rita Bourell	Sarah Ehlers	Tangela Taylor
Nicole Brooks	Amber Hall	Erin Whitworth
Stacey Concannon	Shara Netterstrom	Amy Wyatt

Graduate Certificate Students:

Debbie Armstrong	Grace Foote Johns	Darcie Punke
Beth Iha	Susan Larkin	Makoto Sakamoto

Change in Summer Course Offering – WS 391

In the last newsletter we announced that the summer section of WS 391: Women's Studies Seminar would be on the topic of Women in Management. We are unable to offer that topic, but will offer a new topic, Going Global: Overcoming Violence against Women and Children. The class will be team taught by Professors Janie Leatherman and Julie Webber of the Department of Politics and Government. The class meets from 10:25 to 1:15, MTWR for the first four-week summer session, May 17 to June 11. The course is available for both undergraduate and graduate credit. Undergraduates must have at least junior standing.

Recently, Amnesty International called on Hollywood to monitor its use of violence against women as a box office draw. Recent resolutions at the UN Security Council have drawn attention to gender, women's rights, and the imperative of thinking and acting in gender sensitive ways in conflict prevention, peace making and reconstruction. In addition, actions by an increasing number of feminist non-governmental organizations throughout the world, and criticism of world leaders' performance in protecting women's rights have drawn growing attention to the status of women in all areas of the globe (including the U.S.).

This class will examine discourses of global feminism, peace studies, and domestic violence information to better understand the critical moment in history that women are now experiencing and discern their prospects for progress in social and political terms. A special focus of the course will be on feminist non-governmental organizations and their success in changing worldwide policy for women's rights and children's rights in such issue areas as peacemaking, HIV/AIDS, and trafficking of women and children. ■

March for Women's Lives

Seventy Illinois State University students left Friday, April 23, for Washington, D.C., to join the March for Women's Lives. Seven of the leading national women's rights organizations—the American Civil Liberties Union, the Black Women's Health Imperative, Feminist Majority, NARAL Pro-Choice America, the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health, the National Organization for Women, and the Planned Parenthood Federation of America—coordinated the event which promises to be the largest reproductive rights march to ever take place in Washington, D.C. Students plan to attend Youth Convergence Workshop activities on Saturday, participate in the Take Back the Night Rally Saturday evening, and join the March for Women's Lives on Sunday, April 25. The ISU chapters of Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance and Campus for choice coordinated the arrangements for ISU student. ■

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Women's Studies to Administer the Dorothy E. Lee Endowment Fund



Dorothy E. Lee

Women's Studies will serve as the fiscal agent for the Dorothy E. Lee Endowment Fund for Nontraditional Women Students. The fund has been established by Dr. Dorothy Lee, former chair of the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work, to help women over the age of 25 to begin or return to college. Lee was herself a nontraditional student, returning to college in her late twenties. She graduated from Illinois State Normal University in 1959 and received her M.A. in sociology in 1962 at which time she was hired at ISNU on a tenure line. She received her Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Iowa.

Lee continued on the faculty at Illinois State until her retirement in 1991. She served six years as chair of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work, and as acting chair for the departments of History, Foreign Languages, and Political Science. She was on the original committee to form a women's studies minor and chaired a 1987 task force to determine the future direction of the women's studies program. Due to the work of that task force the program, whose future was somewhat in doubt, was continued and strengthened.

nontraditional women students as well. The purpose of the fund is to provide scholarships and to make available grant money for unexpected expenses. The fund will be housed within Women's Studies and administered by a committee of women faculty from Women's Studies, Social Work, and Sociology/Anthropology. The first scholarship is expected to be awarded next fall. Requests for information about applicant qualification requirements may be made to Women's Studies.

Anyone who wishes to contribute to the fund may do so by making a check payable to the Illinois State University Foundation, indicating "Lee Endowment" on the memo line of the check, and mailing to Illinois State University Foundation, Campus Box 8000, Normal, IL 6179-8000. ■

Gifts to Laurenti Scholarship Welcome

Women's Studies welcomes contributions to the Luellen Laurenti Scholarship in Women's Studies for Women's Studies minors. The scholarship, named in honor of the long-time activist in the women's movement, was established by her husband Professor Joesph Laurenti and the Women's Studies Program to help preserve her memory and legacy through the successes of the students who receive the scholarship. Anyone who wishes to make a gift to the scholarship fund may do so by writing a check payable to the Illinois State University Foundation, noting Luellen Laurenti Scholarship in the memo line, and mailing to Illinois State University Foundation, Campus Box 8000, Normal, IL 61790-8000. ■

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