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Women's Voice

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

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## Women's Voice, Volume 4, Issue 2, February 1999

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program  
*Illinois State University*

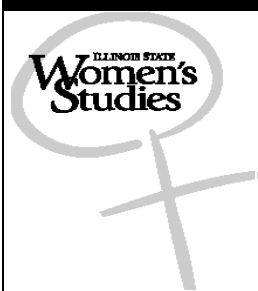
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# Women's Voice

Illinois State University

Volume 4, Issue 2, February 1999

## From the Director:

### Margaret Schuler and Women's Human Rights

In previous columns, I have made references to women's worldwide struggles for citizenship and human rights, to the expansion of women's political activism, and to the emergence of transnational feminist networks. Dr. Margaret Schuler, who is this year's Women's Studies Symposium keynote speaker, is an excellent representative of these political and organizational trends, whether in terms of her personal biography or her leadership of a transnational feminist network that is dedicated to the promotion of women's legal, civil, and social rights.

Dr. Schuler is the Founder and President of Women, Law & Development International (WLDI), a non-governmental organization (NGO) based in Washington, D.C. but with branches in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Among her achievements has been the development of regional women's rights networks in Africa (WiLDAF), Asia (APWLD) and Latin America (CLADEM), all of which continue to be important members of the international women's rights movement. Playing an important catalytic role, WLDI builds the capacity of women around the world to be advocates for their own rights through advocacy training programs, strategy development, and the promotion of regional and international networks of women's rights activists. Dr. Schuler has made significant contributions to the design, implementation, and evaluation of programs and training materials for non-governmental and governmental organizations working on women's rights'

issues. One such publication is *Women's Human Rights Step by Step: A Practical Guide to Using International Human Rights Law and Mechanisms to Defend Women's Human Rights*. Her conceptual clarity and development of analytical tools has helped advance women's human rights around the world.

Dr. Schuler has co-authored numerous publications on women's empowerment and the human rights system, and has organized many international conferences. One book that she edited, *From Basic Needs to Basic Rights: Women's Claim to Human Rights* (1995) grew out of an international conference that she organized in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. I was among those who were invited to participate in the conference, and I chaired a session that addressed the tension between women's rights and cultural rights. The conference left an abiding impression on me. I was fascinated by the feminist lawyers (and at least one judge) from different continents who attended the conference and discussed women's political, civil, economic, and social rights. And I fondly recall the party that was held on the last night of the conference – and the Malaysian government official wearing an Islamic headscarf and long skirt who grabbed the karaoke mike (yes, it was that kind of party) and belted out a Beatles tune!

Prior to establishing WLDI, Dr. Schuler was the Women, Law and Development Director at Overseas Education Fund (OEF) International. In this capacity, she initiated and directed a program to promote and expand women's rights in Asia, Africa, and Latin America and researched issues related to design and methodology in legal literacy and advocacy programs to improve women's rights. She ran a legal services project in Central America, providing technical assistance and training for women's groups throughout the region. She is fluent in Spanish. In the early 1970s she lived in Chile, studying at the University of Santiago and

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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## From the Director (Continued from Page 1)

...serving as a community organizer and researcher. She had to leave Chile at the time of the military coup against President Salvador Allende. Subsequently she obtained a Master's in Human Resource Development and a Doctorate in Adult Learning and Program Evaluation, both from George Washington University.

As the keynote speaker on March 27, Dr. Schuler will deliver an address entitled: "From Basic Needs to Basic Rights: The Emergence of the International Women's Rights Movement." ISU's Women's Studies Program is honored to present Dr. Schuler, who is considered a leader in bringing women's human rights to the attention of the world community.



Dr. Margaret Schuler is pictured at right.

**Saturday, March 27, 1999**  
**8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**  
**University Galleries**  
**Center for the Visual Arts**

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR FREE LUNCH.  
SEE INSERT FOR REGISTRATION FORM.

## Fourth Annual Women's Studies Symposium—Call for Papers

Women's Studies is issuing a call for papers for the Fourth Annual Women's Studies Symposium on Saturday, March 27, 1999. We encourage undergraduate and graduate students who are working on papers this semester to propose them for the symposium. We ask faculty to encourage their students to submit proposals. Students from any major are welcome to submit proposals.

Students should send a one-page abstract/proposal to Women's Studies Program, Programming Committee, Campus Box 4260. Please include your name, major, student status, the course and instructor for whom the paper was written. The abstract should be detailed, with information on the topic to be discussed, the research question, methodology and sources of data (for social-science papers), and the main arguments.

Proposals may be submitted by end of February 1999.

## Working Women's Action Day

On Thursday, March 18, 1999, the Illinois AFL-CIO is sponsoring the **Working Women's Action Day** from 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. The conference will focus on legislative, political and bargaining strategies for improving the lives of working women. Additional topics to be covered include family and medical leave, flex time, childcare, domestic violence and sexual harassment. For more information or to register by February 26<sup>th</sup>, contact Illinois AFL-CIO, 534 South Second St., Springfield, IL 62701-4014 or by phone, (217) 544-4014 or via fax, (217) 544-0225.

## Bernice Johnson in Champaign

The Baker Board is proud to bring to Champaign-Urbana, Bernice Johnson Reagon. Dr. Reagon will present "Wade in the Water: African American Sacred Music Traditions," a program sponsored by the Baker Board, Ministry with Women, on March 8, 1999 from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the Wesley United Methodist Church. Assisting Dr. Reagon in her lecture/demonstration is Ollie Watts Davis with the U of I Black Chorus, the Urbana High School Concert Choir and pianist Willie T. Summerville. The performance is free and open to the public. Childcare is provided. To reserve childcare, call (217) 344-1120 by Wednesday, March 3.

## Patricia Ireland to Visit Bradley

On Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Patricia Ireland will be giving a free public lecture at Bradley University in Peoria. Ms. Ireland is the current president of the National Organization for Women (NOW) and she will be lecturing on "What Women Want." The lecture will take place in Bradley University's Student Center Ballroom at 7:00 p.m. with a reception to follow the lecture.

## "Millennium Girls" Conference at ISU

On Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup> the "Millennium Girls" conference will take place in the Ballroom of the Bone Student Center from 8:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students, parents and educators. The conference's objective is to demonstrate the value of business and technology to young women, and to help them see the advantages of technology in their lives and future careers. In a fun environment, the conference will showcase professional women using technology in their careers. The deadline for registration is March 1 or until all the space is filled. To register, call (309) 438-2160 or fax (309) 438-5364. You can also visit their website: <http://www.exu.ilstu.edu/mgirls>.

## Minority-Scholar-in-Residence at ISU

**Adrien Wing** will be the second Minority-Scholar-in-Residence at ISU. Professor Wing is a professor of law at the University of Iowa College of Law. Professor Wing specializes in both comparative and international law, and has published in such areas as constitutionalism in Namibia, South Africa and Palestine; critical race feminism; legal decision-making in the Palestinian *intifada*; rape in Bosnia; women's rights in Palestine and South Africa; and foreign sovereign immunity and the act of state doctrine. She is the editor of *Critical Race Feminism—A Reader* and is on the Board of Editors of the *American Journal of Comparative Law*.

Professor Wing will be at ISU from March 29<sup>th</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>. On Monday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 12:00, the Women's Studies Program will host a luncheon with Professor Wing. On Tuesday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m., Professor Wing will be giving a public lecture on "Critical Race Feminism: The Role of Race and Gender for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century."

## Women's Studies Brown Bags

The Brown Bag series "Gender Across the Disciplines" will continue through March at the Women's Studies offices, Rachel Cooper, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Room 234. Speakers will discuss the integration of women and gender issues in their disciplines and the way they address women and gender issues in their own research and teaching. Please bring a sandwich. We will provide coffee, tea, and juice. For further information, call 438-2947.

**Monday, March 15, 12:00-2:00** Luellen Laurenti, Illinois NOW Representative  
An informal discussion about legislative issues

**Monday, March 22nd—12:00-1:00** Cynthia Kukla, Art (a two-projector presentation)

**Wednesday, March 31st—12:00-1:00** Karen Pachis and Sarah Campbell, College of Nursing

**If you have a disability and need accommodations, please contact 438-5853.**

## Women's Studies Students: News and Profiles

By Sandra Harmon

Women's Studies is pleased to welcome four new minors.

**Dawn Minor** is a senior psychology major who is planning to graduate in May. She is a member of Women's Coalition.

**Elizabeth Short** is a sophomore business management major with a French minor. Elizabeth is, at present, the only women's studies minor with a major in the College of Business. She became treasurer of Women's Coalition this semester and is looking forward to enrolling in Agnes Scott College's Atlanta Semester: Women, Leadership and Social Change next spring.

**Stephanie Kiesewetter** is a sophomore student with a double major in psychology and English. In addition to her women's studies minor, she also has a minor in art.

**Jennifer Day** is a sophomore majoring in sociology. Both Jennifer and Stephanie became interested in the women's studies minor while taking WS120: Women, Gender and Society.

Currently, 51 students representing 20 different majors and all five colleges are Women's Studies minors. ✍

## WS 391: Women's Studies Seminar to be offered summer 1999

Women's Higher Education in Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century United States is the topic for WS 391: Women's Studies Seminar offered during the July 12 to August 6, summer session. The seminar, taught by Dr. Sandra Harmon (History and Women's Studies) will explore the history of women's higher education including normal schools and teachers colleges. As part of the seminar, students will do archival research on women students and faculty at the Illinois State Normal University focusing on the educational experience for women, the effects of education upon women's life choices, the connection between women's rights and women's educational advancement, and the experience of women faculty in a coeducational institution. They will be asked to place their findings for the ISNU in the context of national trends in higher education for women. The seminar is available for both undergraduate and graduate credit. It will meet from 1:25 to 4:15 p.m., MTWR, July 12 to August 6 in Rachel Cooper 232.

## Women's Studies Consortium Meeting

By Valentine Moghadam

On Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, the Women's Studies Program hosted the Illinois Women's Studies Consortium meeting. One topic that was discussed was how to disseminate upcoming events at respective universities throughout the Consortium. One upcoming event that was mentioned: ISU's Women's Studies Program, conference on "Women's Employment: Linking Local and Global," September 17-18, 1999.

We also discussed the next Consortium conference and business meeting, to be held in Spring 2000 (probably early April), at either Eastern Illinois University or Bradley University. In preparation for that conference, including the writing of another IBHE/HECA grant proposal, we will hold a meeting, to be hosted by UIUC Women's Studies, probably on Saturday, August 28<sup>th</sup>. We also discussed appropriate input into the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women. I distributed the "Final Report of the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women in Illinois: Economic Independence for Women: An Action Plan for Illinois," along with the press release announcing the new Commission members and their mandate. We discussed ways in which we could offer suggestions with respect to education and training, and with respect to maternity leaves and childcare facilities. We agreed that our institutions should provide for paid parental leaves, including a semester-long paid maternity leave. ✍

## Faculty News

**Professor Phyllis Bixler** of the English Department of Southwest Missouri State University will present the 1999 Lois Lenski Children's Literature lecture, co-sponsored by the English department and Milner Library, on Tuesday, March 2, 1999, in CVA 147 at 7 p.m. Professor Bixler will discuss Francis Hodgson Burnett's The Secret Garden. The lecture will last about one hour and is open to the public.

✍

**Cynthia Kukla**, professor in the Art Department of ISU, is teaching a five-week intensive exploration of watercolor painting in Europe. Field trips include 4 days in Vienna, a day trip to Innsbruck and Salzkammergut Lake District, and trips to other locations. The cost is estimated at \$ 4,732. Students will live with Austrian families who will provide breakfast and dinner. Lunch will be served at Salzburg College. The preferred application deadline is March 1, 1999. For more information, please contact Professor Kukla at 438-8074 or [cmkukla@ilstu.edu](mailto:cmkukla@ilstu.edu). ✍



**Val Moghadam**, director of Women's Studies, took part in a conference in Israel in early January. The conference was entitled "Challenging the Nation-State: Perspectives on Citizenship and Identity", and it took place at Ben Gurion University of the Negev, in Beer Sheva. Her paper was entitled "Gender, National Identity and Citizenship: Reflections on the Middle East and North Africa." In late February, she attended a conference on women and economic globalization at the University of California in Santa Barbara; she also gave a lecture on gender and globalization at California State University, Northridge.

Dr. Moghadam has also just published the following article: "Revolution, Religion, and Gender Politics: Iran and Afghanistan compared". It appears in The Journal of Women's History, vol. 10, no. 4 (Winter 1999), pp. 173-195. ✍

## ISU Women's Coalition

This semester, Women's Coalition meetings are going to be held on Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in Stevenson 223. Watch for this month's events on the Women's History Month calendars. Women's Coalition meetings are open to everyone. For more information, suggestions, questions, contact Liz at 662-2906 or Becca at 451-8744. On Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, Women's Coalition will be sponsoring the talent showcase "**The Voice that is Great Within Us.**" Any and all female performers are welcome to participate. This event is open to the public. If you have questions or would like to participate, contact Andrea at 888-9564, or via email at [amember@ilstu.edu](mailto:amember@ilstu.edu). ✍

*1999 National Women's History Month is celebrating  
"Putting a Stamp on Herstory"*

See insert for detailed listing of scheduled events.

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

## Videoconference on Violence Against Women

On Monday, March 8 from 8:30-10:00 a.m., a live global satellite conference "A World Free of Violence Against Women" will take place at University of Illinois at Springfield. This event will mark the last International Women's Day of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The event, spearheaded by UNIFEM, is the first event of its kind ever held in the United Nations General Assembly Hall. It will feature women whose personal experiences of violence have inspired grassroots initiatives or policy changes, with an interactive link between five sites: Strasbourg, Mexico City, Nairobi, New Delhi, and New York. Topics include domestic violence, trafficking in women and girls, harmful traditional practices (honor killings, female genital mutilation) and wartime violence against women (rape, forced prostitution). For more information, call (217) 206-7173 or send email to [UISWomensCenter@uis.edu](mailto:UISWomensCenter@uis.edu). ✉

## Job Opening at Grassroots International

**Grassroots International** has recently posted two job openings: Publications Coordinator/Grantwriter and Administrative Assistant. Grassroots International is an independent, progressive human rights and development agency. They support democratic social change movements in the Third World and engage the US public on issues of importance to overseas partners. They currently fund activities in Haiti, Mexico, Brazil, Eritrea and Palestine. For a complete description of the above positions, stop by the Women's Studies Program, Rachel Cooper Bldg., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor. For more information on employment or the organization itself, contact Grassroots International, 179 Boylston St, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Boston, MA 02130, or phone (617) 524-1400, by fax (617) 524-5525, or via email at [grassroots@iqc.apc.org](mailto:grassroots@iqc.apc.org). ✉

## Job Opening at PRA

Political Research Associates (PRA) is an 18-year-old independent nonprofit research center that monitors the political right from a progressive perspective. They serve as a national resource and support center for activists, journalists, educators and others who need to understand the right and its various social and political movements. They are looking for a well-organized and grounded individual to join their six-person staff. The Information Specialist job primarily involves data management and administrative support, among other duties.

Applicants must have an interest in, and experience with database management systems and programs; experience in clerical support work; background in social justice work; ability to work independently and in a team; and a flexible work style. To apply, mail or fax a resume and cover letter by April 6<sup>th</sup> to Political Research Associates, 120 Beacon St., Suite 202, Somerville, MA 02143. The starting date is May 15, 1999. ✉

## Upcoming Feminist Workshop

The Ninth Annual Feminist Workshop "Making Visible the Invisible: Mentoring, Teaching, and Scholarship" is being held Wednesday, March 24, 1999 from 9:00 a.m.-5 p.m. The conference is on conference on college composition and communication at the Atlanta Hilton Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia. The workshop will include discussions on such topics as "Appropriate Show of power," Working Conditions, and Herstory. For more information, contact Kathleen Winter, Morehead State University at (606) 783-2229 or via email, [k.winter@morehead-st.edu](mailto:k.winter@morehead-st.edu). ✉