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Illinois State University

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From the Director:

Reflections on Andrea Dworkin's Passing

Alison Bailey, Acting Director

I had not thought about Andrea Dworkin in years. Yet when I heard that she died in her sleep on Saturday, April 9th at the age of 58, I found myself mourning. "In every century, there are a handful of writers who help the human race to evolve," Gloria Steinem once said, "and Andrea is one of them." Dworkin was one of the louder voices of second-wave feminism, who with other white East-Coast radicals like Kate Millet, Shulamith Firestone, and Mary Daly, defined feminist issues faster than either scholars or activists could chart them. Her books have the power to transform, anger, and engage readers in the space of an evening.

Andrea's life was a rich tapestry of pain, reflection, and contradictions. Born to left-leaning working-class parents in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, Dworkin credits her Jewish heritage for making her aware of oppression. Her first act of resistance was refusing to sing Christmas carols in elementary school. Her resistance was met with anti-Semitic graffiti and institutional discipline. During her freshman year at Bennington College in 1965, Dworkin was arrested during an anti-war rally at the United Nations. Failing to post the necessary \$500 bail, she was incarcerated at the Women's House of Detention in New York. During her time there she was assaulted by two guards during a brutal internal examination. Her account of the experience was picked up by the New York press and eventually led to the closing of the facility. After graduating from Bennington she married a political activist and went to live in the Netherlands, but her flower-child anarchist husband turned out to be violent and abusive. With the help of feminist friends she escaped the marriage four years later, vowing that she would use everything she knew on behalf of women's liberation. She returned to the United States in the 1970s, and failing to make a living as a writer, turned to prostitution. She later identified herself as a lesbian and spoke passionately about her "love for women as the soil in which my life is rooted" (*NYT*, 4-12-05), yet she had a 30-year unconventional relationship with John Stoltenberg, whom she eventually married in 1998.

Dworkin's sexual politics emerged directly from her experiences of being violated as a child, raped as a teenager, beaten as a young wife, and assaulted as a sex worker. She published *Woman Hating* (1974), *Our Blood: Prophecies and Discourses in Sexual Politics* (1976), followed by her memorable *Pornography: Men Possessing Women* (1981), *Right Wing Women* (1983), and *Intercourse* (1987). But I remember her most for her work with feminist lawyer Catherine MacKinnon, with whom she drafted a proposal for legislation that defined pornography as a civil rights violation against women, and allowed women to sue pornographers in civil court for injury. They soon drafted anti-pornography legislation and began a campaign that pushed them into an odd alliance with conservatives such as Phyllis Schlafly. In 1983 their law passed in Indianapolis, but was overturned as unconstitutional by the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals two years later. The Supreme Court later upheld the lower court's decision in the now famous *American Booksellers Association, Inc. vs. Hudnut*. The entire project vilified them in the eyes of the ACLU and free-speech advocates.

Whether you find Dworkin's views on heterosexual intercourse, pornography, and male violence prudish, extremist, or liberating, you must credit her with having the courage to begin a difficult series of conversations on pornography and violence against women. Before Dworkin no one looked at porn theoretically; it was considered low-brow smut, pure and simple. Dworkin was the first to intellectually analyze pornography, arguing that it incited violence against women. She later dared to criticize the very notion of heterosexual intercourse, which she understood as an everyday act of female subjugation.

Her observations were not met warmly by post-second-wave so-called "sex positive" feminists who saw both sexism and liberatory possibilities in pornography as a medium. Yet even Suzie Bright, a sex columnist and authority on pornography, recalled Dworkin's influence on her in a recent blog. "Here's the irony... every single woman who pioneered the sexual revolution, every erotic-feminist-bad-girl-and-proud-of-it-stiletto-shitkicker, was once a fan of Andrea Dworkin. Until 1984 we all were. She was the one who got us looking at porn with a critical eye..." (http://susiebright.blogs.com/susie_bright_journal/_2005/04/andrea_dworkin_.html).

Andrea will be remembered for her brave work and for the difficult conversations she began. ■

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Women's Studies Staff

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Dr. Val Moghadam | Director – On Leave | 438-2947 |
| Dr. Alison Bailey | Acting Director | 438-5617 |
| Dr. Becca Chase | Acting Assistant Director/Advisor | 438-7361 |
| Ms. Rozel White | Secretary | 438-2947 |
| Ms. Bethany Struebing | Graduate Assistant | 438-2948 |
| Mr. Ryan Rademacher | Undergraduate Assistant | 438-2947 |

WOMEN'S STUDIES EVENTS SHOWCASE

Geography Distinguished Lecturer Janice Monk

Professor Janice Monk will be the Seventh Annual Geography Distinguished Lecturer. Her presentation will be in the Old Main room of the BSC at 3 p.m. on Friday, April 29th. The title is "The Normal Way: Exploring the Paths of Early Women Geographers." Monk is a Professor of Geography and Women's Studies at the University of Arizona. She is the former director of the Southwest Institute for Research on Women and a former President of the Association of American Geographers. ■

Palestinian and Israeli Women Work for Peace



Sherry Gorelick

Dr. Sherry Gorelick, Professor of Sociology and Women's Studies from Rutgers University, visited ISU on March 30-31 to lecture about Palestinian and Israeli women working for peace. She gave two public lectures and also spoke to an overflow audience of students in a Politics of the Middle East course. "For over half a century, Israeli and Palestinian women have worked valiantly, fighting danger, ridicule, and media invisibility, to create peace between their two peoples," Gorelick said. Israeli women's peace groups, under the umbrella of

Coalition of Women for Peace, have used various nonviolent tactics to work for peace.

Prof. Gorelick attended a Geneva conference in 1983 that was also attended by prominent Israeli and Palestinian women peace activists, including government officials on both sides. A major document produced there anticipated many of the agreements reached by the two governments years later. Women have been absent at all the major governmental peace conferences, yet women are in the best position to negotiate peace, Gorelick argued, because they are the least indoctrinated into the prevailing militarism of the society. Against the dominant militaristic rhetoric which views the Israeli/Palestinian conflict as inevitable, and military power as the only recourse, women have modeled peaceful cooperation and nonviolent conflict resolution. "Ending the occupation through peaceful negotiation is essential" to achieving peace, Gorelick said. She urged her audiences to learn more about the oppression of Palestinians and occupation of their land and to demonstrate against U.S. involvement. Her visit was sponsored by Women's Studies, Politics and Government, MECCPAC, Global Review, and International Studies. ■

Jennifer Welch at ISUSkanks Forum

About 200 people showed up on March 23 for a lecture by Jennifer Welch and ISUSkanks panel discussion. The event was prompted by women's studies students' outcries against the web site, which occasionally has posted ISU women students' pictures without their permission and which promotes sexual violence. Welch, who works on women's laws for the State's Attorney General's office, spoke about Illinois laws on rape and sexual assault, cyber-stalking, and cyber-harassment. She explained to the



audience that the laws regulating cyberspace were behind the times—that there is a lag time between the development of new high-tech crimes and legal redress. However, Illinois is seen as a leader in sexual assault legislation, and the state's laws concerning cyber-stalking are used by other states as models for new legislation.

Also on the panel were Associate Dean of Students Rick Olshak, Yadira Ruiz from Stepping Stones, and Gail Trimpe-Morrow from Sexual Assault Prevention and Survivor Services. Alison Bailey, Director of Women's Studies, moderated the panel. After introducing the panel, Dr. Bailey opened up the forum for questions and comments. For an hour, student after student expressed their outrage at the web site's owner and creators, Ryan Kuba and John Pesenti, and their frustration with the ISU administration for not stopping the web site. Olshak explained that the site was protected under the First Amendment, and that this made it difficult for the university to take legal action. However, the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities did talk to Kuba and Pesenti and got them to tone down the rhetoric and stop using pictures without permission (with only temporary effect). This is an issue that will not just go away. Look for more student activism in the coming year. ■

Lorie Chaiten from the ACLU



Lorie Chaiten

Lorie Chaiten, Director of the Reproductive Rights Project at the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois, gave two talks in the community on March 9 addressing the current status of reproductive rights in the state. Among the topics addressed were the negative impact of George Bush's proposed increase of nearly \$40 million in federal funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage sex education in his fiscal year 2006 budget. ■

Women's History Month Poetry Slam

A poetry slam sponsored by Women's Studies was held March 9 at The Coffeehouse in downtown Normal in honor of Women's History Month. Pictured at right is the featured artist Susan B. Anthony Sommers-Willet from the University of Illinois. Pictured below are several participants who read at the poetry slam. ■



TENTH ANNUAL WOMEN'S STUDIES SYMPOSIUM

Women's Studies Symposium



Keynote Edris Cooper-Anifowoshe

Dean Gary Olson. "This symposium also allows students to contextualize current gender issues, thus enhancing their classroom experience."

This year, the Women's Studies Program presented the 2004-2005 Luellen Laurenti Award to Angeline Anastasia, an outstanding senior in the program, as part of the symposium. This prestigious scholarship honors Dr. Luellen Laurenti, an ISU professor in Foreign Languages and a major force behind the women's rights movement in Illinois for three decades. Dr. Sandra Harmon was also honored with a plaque in recognition of her work to establish the symposium and for her tireless dedication to the Women's Studies Program during her years at ISU.

Prof. Edris Cooper-Anifowoshe, actor, director, performance artist, and currently a guest artist at Naropa University in Boulder, Colorado, delivered a powerful keynote address, entitled "Life during Wartime: Wailing, Waiting, and Womanhood." "When women speak about children, issues of abuse, human rights, victimization, and death due to war, is there not a cogency to the concern that cannot be accomplished by men?" asked Cooper-Anifowoshe. She explained how in Africa women shame men into accepting their demands by exposing their vaginas in public demonstrations. "We have our bodies, we have our voices. Moving beyond Eve Ensler (*Vagina Monologues*), we must bare our collective, metaphorical vaginas to the corporate male gang and create shame in the place of patriotism. We must not lend even the slightest tacit approval to the expansion of the empire, whether it is a yellow ribbon on our gas-guzzling SUV's or a surrendered silence. How many lives per gallon are we willing to pay?"



As part of her two-day visit, Cooper-Anifowoshe conducted an inspiring workshop for Dr. Paul Dennhardt's movement class in the Allen Theater. She also met with President Al Bowman. ■



Angeline Anastasia received the Luellen Laurenti Award for being an outstanding senior Women's Studies Minor. Congratulations Angie!

Sandra Harmon was honored for founding the Women's Studies Symposium ten years ago and for her dedication to Women's Studies during her years at ISU. Thank you Dr. Harmon!



Students from Maura Toro-Morn's class presented their "Women's Autobiography" papers at the Symposium.



Students in the audience enjoyed the day's various presentations.

CLASSROOM OPPORTUNITIES

Women's Studies is pleased to announce the availability of several new courses for students this summer and fall term. Please consult your Women's Studies advisor to make these courses part of your Women's Studies Undergraduate Minor or Graduate Certificate program.

Summer 2005 Social Work Courses

SWK 170 - Introduction to Social Work

MTWR, 9:30-11:20 a.m., Instructor Patricia Dianne Berndt
Six-week session starting 7/5/05

SWK 125 - Building Healthier Communities through Community Involvement

MTWR, 8:55-11:45 a.m., Instructor Daniel Liechty
Four-week session starting 5/23/05

New Fall 2005 Course – English 467

ENG 467 – Technology and English Studies: Women, Rhetoric, the Computer, and the Internet

Thursdays, 5:30-8:20 p.m., Instructor Lee Brasseur

In this seminar we will use rhetorical theory to guide us as we examine the role of women in relation to the computer and the Internet. In exploring this area, we will examine the perspectives of women who develop for the computer and the Internet, and the perspectives of women who use these technologies.

As we examine the role of women in the development of technologies, we will investigate:

- women's historical role in development of computers and the Internet;
- women's role today in creating computer software, professional and personal Internet sites and communication tools; and
- women's role in developing technologies in the rhetoric of teaching in English Studies—web site development, online discussions, and other course-developed computer and Internet sources.

As we examine women's role as users of computers and the Internet, we will investigate the kinds of rhetorical strategies women use on the computer and the Internet, girl's interactions with these domains, and the use of "women spaces" on the Net as well as the use of computer-based technologies in English Studies.

We will discuss texts and explore the Internet in both small- and large-group discussions. Students will be asked to submit reading responses, lead a discussion of an online text, and also research and produce an extensive document (on paper or online) about an issue related to women, the computer, and the Internet.

Expected texts include:

- Life on the Screen: Identity in the Age of the Internet*, by Sherry Turkle.
Persuasion and Privacy in Cyberspace, by Laura J. Gurak.
Women Internet: Creating New Cultures in Cyberspace, by Wendy Harcourt.
From Barbie to Mortal Kombat: Gender and Computer Games, by Justine Cassell and Henry Jenkins, Eds. ■

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New Fall 2005 Course – English 440

ENG 440 – Language, Gender, Power, and Politeness

Mondays & Wednesdays, 2:00-3:15 p.m., Instructor Susan Meredith Burt
ENG 341 Prerequisite or Instructor Consent

This course will celebrate the publication of a revised and annotated edition of Robin Lakoff's classic text *Language and Woman's Place*, which inspired the linguistic study of gender in and through language. The course will examine questions such as the following, with a focus on the last question:

- What linguistic practices and ideologies are associated with women's speech?
- How are gender ideologies made manifest in ways women are spoken of?
- What is the role of gender-based power inequity in these sociolinguistic processes?
- What are the roles of cultural institutions, including socialization into the nuclear family and into heterosexuality, and representations in the media and other large-scale social structures?
- How do linguistically based cultural systems, such as politeness, reproduce unequal gendered arrangements? (Bucholtz 2004: 3)

We will concentrate on the ways linguistic and sociolinguistic approaches to gender and politeness have changed since 1975. Student responsibilities will include a midterm exam, two in-class presentations, and a research paper or grant proposal. (The grant proposal, of course, would be addressed to the beloved FUDGE Foundation, the Foundation for Underfunded but Deserving Graduates in English).

Texts include:

- Women, Men and Politeness*, by Janet Holmes.
Language and Women's Place: Text and Commentaries, by Robin Tolmach Lakoff, Revised and Expanded Edition, Mary Bucholtz, Ed.
Gender and Politeness, by Sara Mills. ■

YWCA Stepping Stones

The YWCA Sexual Assault Program, Stepping Stones, needs volunteers to provide phone counseling and medical or legal support. The 40-hour training will be held Monday 5/16, Wednesday 5/18, Friday 5/20, Monday 5/23, and Wednesday 5/25 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. An application and brief interview are required. For an information packet, call 309-662-0461 ext. 272.

STUDENT, FACULTY, AND STAFF RECOGNITION

Congratulations, Graduates!

We wish our graduating Women's Studies minors well:

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Ralph Hardesty | Tiffany Starnes |
| Estelle Jenkins III | Callie Swanlund |
| Ryan Rademacher | Amanda Watts |
| Rachel Spangler | |

Best wishes to those who have completed their Graduate Certificates:

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Shushan Avagyan | William Lundig |
| Beth Gillis | Jennifer Woodruff |
| Grace Foote Johns | |

Welcome, New Students!

We welcome these graduate students into the Graduate Certificate Program:

| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| Nicole Aitken | Jamie Thomas |
| Emily Foster | |

We welcome these new Women's Studies minors:

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Donna Jorgensen | Melissa Richards |
| Cassidy Stills | |

Student Accomplishments

Grace Foote Johns coordinated the second "Women in Science, Math, and Technology Career Pen Pals Project," which linked five women professionals with seven Parkside Junior High School students. She also helped to organize ISU's 15th Annual Expanding Your Horizons through Math, Science and Technology Conference held April 2, 2005, and presented the career workshop "Women in Science and Math HERstory Quiz Game." She presented "Enhancing the Academy: An Ethnographic Case Study of Women and Men Undergraduate Science Majors" at the ISU Graduate Research Symposium on April 22, 2005. Finally, she was nominated by the Bloomington-Normal Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) for a statewide *AAUW Emerging Star* leadership award. Congratulations, Grace! ■



Grace Foote Johns

Faculty and Staff Accomplishments

Pat Badani's New Media project "Where Are You From?" was screened at the CAVE Gallery of the International Center of Bethlehem in Palestine from February 17 through March 14, 2005. Her work "El Objeto de tu Deseo" (1987) illustrates the cover of "Die Lady Die," an award-winning novel by Argentinean writer Alejandro López, translated into English and published by Aliform (USA).

L.J. Douglas has a solo exhibition at the International Museum of Surgical Science in Chicago and a group exhibition called "New Editions Books>Old>New>/Digital 2005," juried by Betsy Davids at the O'Hanlon Center for the Arts in Mill Valley, CA.

Teri Farr was elected Chair for the Adult Learner Commission through National Academic Advising Association (NACADA).

Kass Fleisher delivered a paper, "Exposing the Expose: Problems of Intention and Performance in Nonfictional Writing," at the Associated Writers Program convention on April 2, 2005 in Vancouver.

Tom Gershick and Gina Bessa were among 25 professors to be recognized by their students and the Student Education Association during Professor Appreciation Week.

Ann Haugo presented "Border Encounters: Decolonial Strategies in Native Women's Theatre and Performance," as part of Arizona State University's "Theatre and Performance in the Borderlands" series. Her article "Native American Drama" was recently published in *A Companion to Twentieth-Century Drama*, edited by David Krasner (Blackwell, 2004). For the 2005 Mid-America Theatre Conference, Haugo coordinated a Pedagogy Symposium panel titled "Integrating Teaching Assistants into the General Education Theatre Course; or, the Care and Feeding of Graduate Assistants."

Victoria Harris's paper "An Atlas of the Difficult Body" has been accepted for presentation at the Sixth International Conference of the Hellenic Association for the Study of English on (Re)Constructing Pain and Joy in Language, Literature, and Culture to be held in Athens, Greece in October 2005.

Cynthia Kukla's solo exhibition of paintings opened April 15 at the Contemporary Art Center of Peoria, running through June 7. The opening reception is Friday, May 6, from 5-8 p.m. She will be interpreting a poem with a black and white drawing for a new book of poems on peace and justice, sponsored by the S.O.S. Art Program of exhibitions and publications in Cincinnati, Ohio. She also has a fellowship at the Virginia Center for Creative Arts in Amhurst, Virginia for late May 2005. She has been selected to participate in the IMPACT 4 Conference in Berlin and Poznan from September 5-10, 2005. She is also preparing an on-site fine arts print series inspired by the Berlin Museum's famous statue of Egyptian Queen Nefertiti.

Jin Lee has been awarded a 2005 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship in photography.

Janice Neuleib gave a featured speech entitled "The Other 'F' Word," at the feminist workshop at the College Composition and Communication Conference, in San Francisco on March 16, 2005.

Marla Reese-Weber gave a poster presentation with P.A. Foster and J. Kahn, "Correlates of Father's Emotional Expressiveness: Parenting Hassles, Coping and Preschool Children's Social Behavior," at the Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research on Child Development in Atlanta in April. At the same meeting she presented another poster, "Assessing Social Aggression, Overt Aggression, Isolation, and Prosocial Behavior: Comparing Self-Reports and Peer Nominations," with K.E. Hoff, J. Stagg, J. Benz, and C. Ratajski.

Roberta Trites gave a keynote address called "Hope, Despair, and Reform: Literature for Youth" at the Child and the Book conference in Antwerp, Belgium on April 16, 2005. She also was invited to give two lectures: "Huck and Jo: Then and Now" at Christopher Newport University, Newport News, VA, on March 9, 2005, and "Twain and Alcott's Legacy in Young Adult Literature: Reflections and Community" at State University of New York at Stony Brook on March 7, 2005.

Mary Trouille presented "Challenging Male Violence and the Double Standard in the Courts: The Separation Case of Dame D*** (Paris, 1788)" for the panel "Lawyers, the Law, and Political Change" at the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies in Las Vegas in March 2005. She also served as chair of the Clifford Prize Selection Committee for the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. This prize is awarded annually to the author of the best article published in eighteenth-century studies. ■

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

THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES

Feminist Student Group Raises over \$5000 for Local Women's Organizations

During Valentine's Day weekend, members of the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance (FMLA) were busy putting the finishing touches on a most elaborate project: V-Day. V-Day's mission is both simple and ambitious. It demands that the violence against women and girls must end. It proclaims Valentine's Day as V-Day until the violence stops.

As part of this mission FMLA directed and produced Eve Ensler's popular and controversial play *The Vagina Monologues*. Their three flawless performances played to full houses in the Bone Center Ballroom. The educational fundraiser began with a "Vagina Fair," which consisted of informational booths sponsored by the Neville House women's shelter, the YWCA's Stepping Stones counseling program for sexual assault survivors, the G-spot (ISU's safe-sex peer education program), PRIDE, Planned Parenthood, Barnes and Noble, and Amnesty International. The \$5000 raised from the sale of tickets, chocolate vaginas, and t-shirts went to organizations in the Bloomington-Normal community working to end violence against women and girls.

Members of FMLA and the community of volunteers that made this production possible were not acting alone—literally. Community productions of Ensler's Obie-Award winning play were staged across the globe that weekend.

V-Day was born in 1998 as an outgrowth of Ensler's performances. As she performed her piece in small towns and large cities all around the world, she saw and heard first hand the destructive personal, social, political, and economic consequences violence against women has for many nations and communities. Hundreds of women told her their stories of rape, incest, domestic battery, and genital mutilation. It was clear that something widespread and dramatic needed to be done to stop the violence. A group of women in New York joined Ensler and founded V-Day as an annual educational, organizing, and fundraising event. ■



The Women's Studies program would like to thank Stephanie Bridges (FMLA president), Jessica Flowers (director), Jill Schwartzmiller (stage manager), Kyle Ciani and Ann Haugo (faculty advisors to FMLA), and the entire cast for this valuable contribution to our campus and the greater community. Happy V-Day!