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Women's Studies Completes Phase II of Five-Year Planning Process

By Alison Bailey

What do you get when you put a posse of women, feminist men, and their campus and community allies in a room with good coffee and chocolate, markers and paper, and time? Progress! On November 10th The Hile Group facilitated our second retreat with 35 university and community members participating. We have made a commitment to work smarter and not harder, and to make these gatherings enjoyable and productive sessions that faculty will not want to miss.

The Program has already begun to act on some of the ideas generated during our first session. We have a FirstView web page up and running so that potential Illinois State University students can add information on the Women's Studies Program to their virtual brochures. We have met with Sarah Walczynski at the Lab for Integrated Learning and Technology (LILT) to begin redesigning and updating the Program's webpage. Our *Women's Voice* newsletter has a new look, a new campus and community focus and has gone electronic. We have identified our program stakeholders and the value-added services we want to make visible in our community.

The rubber met the road during Phase II. Participants broke into groups and began articulating the vision for ISU Women's Studies they see emerging at this time. We have also continued this conversation on our new five-year planning listserv.

Our group discussions generated six top foci: Facilitate faculty and staff development and support, promote the Women's Studies Program as a collaborator and resource for our community, review and revise the existing curriculum, promote interdisciplinary research collaborations, identify funding opportunities, and reevaluating identity (e.g. what do we want to call our program and what should our mission be?).

The last hour of the session was devoted to critiquing our present mission statement and identifying values to be included in our new mission statement. Kim Stone, Alison Bailey, Grace Foote Johns, and Maria Schmeeckle volunteered to be the Identity Task Force and to draft a mission statement for the next meeting. The committee is in the process of studying mission statements and best practices of other Women's Studies programs in the state and stellar programs nationwide. This conversation will continue on the five-year plan listserv.

And now, more good news. The Program was granted an Out-of-Cycle Allocation Request for \$2000 from CAS for Phase IV of the planning project. As a way of saying thank you to all who have volunteered their time and energy to our planning process, we will be hosting an end-of-the-year dinner, catered by Biaggi's, at Ewing Manor after our final retreat. We hope everyone who has participated in a retreat or other planning session will join us.

Thanks again to all of you who have taken time to be part of this exciting process! ♀

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Spotlight on the Community: Stepping Stones Advocate Serves Sexual Assault Victims

By Becca Chase, with Janie Clark

As part of this year's "makeover" we are reinstituting an old feature on local women activists.



Yadira Ruiz is a passionate and compassionate educator and victim's advocate at Stepping Stones, a sexual assault survivor service provided by the McLean County YWCA. When we talked to her about her work recently, she had just

conducted a workshop at a local middle school. "Junior High students are my favorite audience," said Ruiz. "They are not afraid to give their opinions, and are quick to make connections and apply their own feelings and thoughts to the world around them."

Before joining Stepping Stones, Ruiz was a bilingual first-grade teacher in California. When she moved to Bloomington-Normal, she became a case worker for Big Brothers and Big Sisters. One day a parent told her that her daughter had been raped. Ruiz was sad and frustrated because "I didn't have the tools to help her." Soon after that she read about Stepping Stones, volunteered, and took the intensive 40-hour orientation that all Stepping Stones staff are required to take. It was then that Yadira realized what an impact her ex-boyfriend's violence and sexual assault had on her. "I saw how the violence escalated over time. As a victim, you experience humiliation every day, and it becomes normalized." Working at Stepping Stones has been a healing experience for Ruiz. Rather than accepting the norms of gendered behavior, she now constantly challenges them.

Ruiz and her Stepping Stones colleagues believe in a victim-centered approach. As an advocate it is her job to identify her client's needs and advocate for her to see that those needs get met. "I think of sitting at the kitchen table supporting a survivor by listening closely." When she listens to victims, they often say at first, "We don't deserve to be cared for. We brought this on ourselves." Ruiz seeks ways to help women realize that the abuse is not their fault. Women often go through a lengthy process of coming to terms with their situation and then taking appropriate action. When they do, she is joyous.

There are two main approaches to sexual assault education: risk reduction and prevention. Risk reduction—e.g. not walking alone, carrying a whistle, taking self-defense classes—puts the responsibility on the victim.

The prevention approach, which Ruiz practices, focuses on social change. She emphasizes safety, respect, and equality; challenges all people to think critically about how gender norms support sexual assault and domestic violence; and shows people how to take responsibility to change a social environment in which perpetrators feel free to violate their victims' bodies and psyches.

Yadira Ruiz witnesses so much suffering; yet her empathy, compassion, and life-affirming good nature seems boundless. She is grateful to her mentors, who provided her with the support she needed to achieve success, and is determined to pass along this support to the women she serves. Her bottom line: "I love my job." She beams as she says that, and we know that she means it, passionately. ♀

Janie Clark is an ISU student volunteer at Stepping Stones.

Queer Studies at ISU

By Jennifer Hootman and Paula Ressler

Women's Studies planning process participants and Triangle Association members Jennifer Hootman (Library) and Paula Ressler (English) are forming a committee to develop a curriculum for and make a case for an LGBT/Queer Studies Minor program at Illinois State University. Several LGBT/Queer Studies courses in different disciplines already exist or are being planned in Politics and Government, English, and Theater. Hootman and Ressler, along with the Triangle Association, contend that such a curriculum would meet the academic and research needs of a wide variety of students and faculty and would attract leading educators and scholars to the university. Triangle Association members are eager to collaborate with the Women's Studies program to bring these ideas to fruition. In addition, they believe that Women's Studies provides the ideal home for such a program because of its broad interdisciplinarity and its emphasis on issues of gender, sexuality, race, social class, and ability, from national and international perspectives. Hootman and Ressler hope to bring others on board to help with some of the basic research needed, as well as to identify more professors who are teaching courses that would support such a minor. Those interested should e-mail Jennifer at jhootman@ilstu.edu or Paula Ressler at pressle@ilstu.edu. Most assuredly this will be an exciting and rewarding process for all.

The Triangle Association is a group that represents gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans ISU faculty and staff. For more information, please visit their website at http://www.ilstu.edu/employee_groups/triangle_association/. ♀

Student News

Condolences

The members of the Women's Studies Program extend their heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of **Olamide Adeyooye**. A memorial service was held at Illinois State University, at which her father gave a moving eulogy. The ISU Student Foundation is raising money for a scholarship in her memory. Information regarding the Olamide E. Adeyooye Scholarship can be found at <http://www.studentfoundation.ilstu.edu/make-a-difference/index.shtml>.

Alumni Update

Diana Onken (English, 1997) is currently strategy director for the Moving Ideas Network (<http://www.movingideas.org/>). This online network of 180 progressive nonprofit organizations leads online organizing campaigns, creates resources grassroots community movements, sets up online chat rooms, and partners with other online entities and progressive media outlets to promote issues or campaigns. Onken is also a part-time graduate student in public policy at the University of Maryland, and is on the Board of Directors for Peace Action.

April Day-Vigneux (Sociology, 2004) has been traveling through France and teaching English there. She has just received an assistantship and will be teaching in a local high school. She is excited to learn as much as she can about French culture during her time there.

Congratulations, Graduate!

Makoto Sakamoto, Sociology, WS graduate certificate

Welcome, Newcomers!

New WS minors:

Kelley Tanney, Social Work

Jacqueline Sibley, Journalism

Lauren Kim, English

Margaret Menia, Geography Education

Annaliisa Ahlman, Musical Theatre Performance and Theatre Education

New Graduate Certificate student:

Joseph Campbell, English

Congratulations!

Women's Studies minor **Drew Anastasia** is the recipient of the 2005-2006 Acorn Equality Fund Scholarship. The Acorn Award is based on academic performance, volunteerism and advocacy in the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community. Acorn Fund scholarships provide academic financial support for gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender students, allies, or the children of gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender parents. If you would be interested in learning more about the Acorn Fund, please contact Carole Hoke at acorn1999@gmail.com.

Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance

The fall semester is always exciting for the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance (FMLA). This year has proven to be no exception, as feminists on campus have had their hands full with Take Back the Night (TCBN), the first annual Red Party, and auditions for *The Vagina Monologues*.

ISU and Illinois Wesleyan FMLAs collaborated on Take Back the Night 2005 to protest domestic and sexual violence against women and girls. The rally in the Bone Student Center Ballroom included performances by the Guerilla Troupe Theater, talks by Gail Trimpe-Morrow of Sexual Assault Prevention and Survivor Services, ISU student Scott Koscielak, and a sexual assault survivor. Students from both campuses marched through the streets of Bloomington/Normal from the rally to Wesleyan, where the program continued with testimony by other survivors of sexual assault.

In addition to the march and rally, the Clothesline Project (CLP) was set up on the Quad. The CLP is a national program started in 1990 to address the issue of violence against women. Women affected by violence express their emotions by decorating t-shirts and hanging them on a clothesline.

For the seventh year, the FMLA will be celebrate V-Day, a global movement sponsored by the V-Day Foundation to end violence against women and girls, by producing *The Vagina Monologues*, Eve Ensler's renowned show. As a fund-raiser, FMLA hosted a Red Party at the University Galleries on Dec. 6. This year the show will be performed in the Prairie Room of the Bone Student Center on February 17-19, 2006.

Check out FMLA's website, <http://www.lilt.ilstu.edu/fmla>, for details on meetings, events, and parties. ♀

The Feminist Book Club meets on the second Monday of each month at 8 p.m. in the Coffeehouse on Beaufort Avenue in Normal. New members are welcome! Contact Shushan Avagyan at savagya@ilstu.edu.



Dr. Charles Mills visits Dr. Bailey's Gender, Race and Social Contract Theory class.

Faculty Accomplishments

Pat Badani presented her New Media project “Where are you from?_Stories” at the International Festival of Electronic Language (FILE) and associated research paper “Where are you from?_The Networked Sphere” (FILE Symposium).

Alison Bailey has been awarded the Illinois State University Strand Diversity Achievement Award. The award recognizes individual faculty and staff members who make extraordinary contributions to curriculum or program activities that assist the University in responding to its commitment to diversity. Previous Women’s Studies recipients of the Strand Award are: Drs. María E. Canabal, Christopher Horvath, Louis Perez, Nancy Tolson, and Maura Toro-Morn.

Dawn Beichner and David Holleran presented a paper entitled “Is Preferential Treatment Reserved for Certain Kinds of Women? Intersectionalities of Sex, Race, and Ethnicity on Sentencing Outcomes” at the American Society of Criminology conference in Toronto, Ontario.

Dr. Maria Canabal attended the International Congress of the World Federation of Direct Selling Association held in London on October 18-22 in her capacity as Board member of the Direct Selling Association Foundation (DSEF). She organized and secured funding for a day-long consumer update program co-sponsored by the Illinois Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (IAFCS) and the DSEF in Springfield, Illinois on October 28. Dr. Canabal also attended the Asian Consumer and Family Economics Sixth Biennial conference in Sacramento, California on November 3-5. She moderated a general session panel on International Consumer Protection with participants from Malaysia, China, and Taiwan.

Sara Cole wrote a chapter on fitness and nutrition for the Illinois Department of Public Health Women’s Health Curriculum this summer. She and Mark F. Bryson co-presented a workshop entitled “Cultural Awareness and Respect in Diverse Environments” at the Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies in-service training on September 28 in Bloomington. Dr. Cole presented the National Health Education Week workshop entitled “Healthy Choices: Family Life Education,” on October 20 in the BSC Founder’s Suite. In November, she was elected to the Society for Public Health Education’s (SOPHE) Board of Trustees. Dr. Cole also received funding from the College of Applied Science & Technology Dr. Phebe M. Scott Endowment Fund for a pre-conference workshop entitled “Community-Based Participatory Research.”

Teri Farr presented “Know When to Hold ’Em: Creating a Caring Community through the Women’s Mentoring Network” at the National Academic Advising Association Conference, October 5-8. She also was elected national chair for the NACADA Advising Adult Learners Commission.

Lucia Cordell Getsi is one of the ten poets chosen to participate in the Poet-Artist Poetic Dialogue Project sponsored by the ARC Gallery of Women’s Art in Chicago.

The poems and art pieces exhibited through November at ARC were then sent on a national tour. Her essay, “Georg Trakl as Reader-Appropriator: A Study in Intertextual Text World Construction,” was published in *The Author as Reader*.

Ann Haugo’s survey article “American Indian Theatre” was recently published in the *Cambridge Companion to Native American Literature*. In November, she presented a paper entitled “Local to Transnational: Native Women’s Performances of the History of the Americas” for the Theatre of the Americas research group of the American Society for Theatre Research. She is currently serving as a co-chair for the Theatre History Symposium of the Mid-America Theatre Conference, for which she also holds the office of Associate Conference Planner.

Jeanne Howard has been named to the editorial board of *Adoption Quarterly*. In November, she conducted training for child welfare and mental health professionals in Nebraska on post-adoption needs of children adopted from the foster care system.

Cynthia Kukla spoke on the panel “The Enlightenment Aesthetic: What Is Left of This Tradition?” at an international conference that was divided between Berlin, Germany and Poznan, Poland.

Paula Ressler was appointed as Chair of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Issues in Academic Studies Advisory Committee of the National Council of Teachers of English.

Mary Trouille published “Buried Alive: Genlis’s Gothic Tale of Marital Violence in ‘Histoire de la Duchesse de C***’ ” in *Studies on Voltaire and the Eighteenth Century*, December 2005.

Janet Wilson received the College of Fine Arts Research Initiative Award for *Shame the Devil! An Audience with Fanny Kemble*. The show was most recently performed for the Albion Arts Council in Albion, Nebraska in October and at Illinois State University in November. Janet also acted the role of Muriel in *Tiny Island*, produced by Heartland Theatre in September. ♀



*Becca Chase, Mike Matejka, guest speaker
Linda Niemann, and Alison Bailey.*

Women's Studies Calendar

Feb 1: Black History Month Kick-off Reception, Circus Room, Bone Student Center (BSC), 6-7 p.m.

Feb 8: Love Your Body Fest, sponsored by the Body Acceptance Coalition. Ballroom, BSC, 7-9 p.m.

Feb 15: Phase III: WS Five-Year Planning Process Retreat. Professional Development Building, Rm 113-114, 2-5 p.m.

Mar 7: Women's History Month Kick-Off Reception. Old Main Room, BSC, 6-7 p.m.

Mar 8: Deadline for WS Symposium papers, projects, art, and performance submissions.

Mar 8: International Women's Day Poetry Slam. The Coffeehouse, Beaufort St., Normal (TBA).

Mar 15: Luellen Laurenti Scholarship Deadline. (For information, see WS website.)

Mar 29: Rosa Alcalá, Poetry Reading and Discussion. Location TBA, 12 p.m.

Mar 30: Beyond Media: Women! Action! Media! Films and discussion by the grassroots media organization. College of Business 354, 12:35-2:00 & 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Mar 31: Rosa Alcalá, Poetry Reading in University Galleries, TBA

April 3-7: Sexual Assault Awareness Week.

April 4: Judith Arcana, Poet and Reproductive Rights Activist, Reading. TBA.

April 7: Women's Studies Symposium. Keynote: Dr. Andrea Smith, "Native American Women, Reproductive Rights, and Genocide" (tentative title). University Galleries, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

May 3: Phase IV: WS Five Year Planning Meeting. Ewing Manor, 2-5 p.m.

July 6-9: National Women's Music Festival. ISU Campus. See next *Women's Voice* for details.

Women's Sporting Events

Jan 1: Women's Basketball Home Game. ISU vs. Indiana State. Redbird Arena, 2:05 p.m.

Jan 8: Women's Gymnastics, ISU vs. Illinois and Central Michigan. Horton Fieldhouse, 7:00 p.m.

Jan 14: Women's Basketball Home Game. ISU vs. SMS. Redbird Arena, 7:05 p.m.

Jan 16: Women's Basketball Home Game. ISU vs. Wichita State. Redbird Arena, 2:05 p.m.

Jan 27: Women's Basketball Home Game. ISU vs. Evansville. Redbird Arena, 7:05 p.m.

Feb 4: Women's Basketball Home Game. ISU vs. Drake. Redbird Arena, 2:05 p.m.

Feb 6: Women's Basketball Home Game. ISU vs. Creighton. Redbird Arena, 7:05 p.m.

Feb 24: Women's Gymnastics, ISU vs. Western Michigan. Horton Fieldhouse, 7:00 p.m.

Mar 3: Women's Gymnastics, ISU vs. Illinois-Chicago. Horton Fieldhouse, 7:00 p.m.

Mar 18: Women's Gymnastics, State of Illinois Meet. Horton Fieldhouse, 7:00 p.m.



Women's Mentoring Network mentors and advisees attend a pizza party at the WS program office on Nov. 3...



... and a great time was had by all!

Women's Voice
Illinois State University
Women's Studies Program
Rachel Cooper 2nd Floor
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The Society for Women in Philosophy meets...



...for their biennial conference at Illinois State University

Mark your calendars now for our spring retreats! Phase III will be held on Wednesday, 15 February, 2-5 p.m. at the Professional Development Building. Phase IV will be held on Wednesday, 3 May, 2-5 p.m. at Ewing Manor, followed by dinner. Please call (438-2947) or e-mail (rwhite@ilstu.edu) Rozel White if you plan to attend one or both of these retreats and/or the dinner.

Andrea Smith (Cherokee), assistant professor of Native American Studies at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and currently a post-doctorate fellow at the University of Illinois-Urbana, will be the keynote speaker at this year's Women's Studies Symposium on April 7, 2006. She is the author of *Conquest: Sexual Violence and American Indian Genocide*. Dr. Smith received her Ph.D. in the History of Consciousness from the University of California-Santa Cruz.

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