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Illinois State University

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Phase III Meeting Brings Program Mission and Vision into Focus

By Alison Bailey

The energy created by our year-long strategic planning process has started yielding fruit in unexpected ways. Since our fall retreat, Women's Studies faculty members have been busy on the listserv, discussing various planning issues and making new connections. One exciting initiative that has been generated from the listserv discussions is a *Women's Studies Research Consortium*. This is a forum for faculty and graduate students to present works in progress to interested members of the university community. Sara Cole (Health Sciences) will present a draft of her paper "Coming Home: The Culture of a GLBT Student Support Office" at the first session on March 3. Maria Canabal has spearheaded another initiative to secure a UNESCO/UNITWIN (University Twinning) grant to partner with universities in Panama and Puerto Rico to study work and family, and has gathered a group of interested faculty members to participate.

On February 15, Julie Hile of The Hile Group facilitated our third planning retreat, which 28 university and community members attended. Our work for the afternoon was to draft a short mission statement for the Women's Studies Program newsletter, brochures, publicity, and grant applications. For this meeting we prepared a handout with language worked out in a subcommittee and discussed on the listserv, and language derived from mission statements from women's studies programs at several universities. We compared this text with the mission, vision, and goal statements in the *College of Arts and Sciences Strategic Plan*. From this raw material, participants, working in groups, developed language and determined ideas appropriate to our program mission, vision, and goals, and drafted short statements.

We compared statements and identified points of consensus and contention.

The mission/vision subcommittee will meet soon to finalize the mission statement. We will also prepare a longer version of the statement for the website. Once the mission statement is complete, we can determine our new program identity and program name and outline the steps we will need to take to implement our strategic plan.

Work also continues on our new web site design. As a result of our discussions the program will be partnering with University Web Support to give our program homepage a new look.

At our Phase IV retreat, the Women's Studies Program will identify the goals we want to pursue during the 2006-2007 academic year as we start to implement our three-year plan, and decide how we might best use our expertise and energy to accomplish these goals. In this meeting we will also discuss effective implementation strategies so we can continue working "smarter, not harder," as Julie Hile says. And we will celebrate the many achievements we have made this year.

We hope you will be able to join us for our concluding retreat on May 3, 2:00-5:00 p.m., at Ewing Manor! ♀

Director Receives Strand Award

By Becca Chase

Alison Bailey, Associate Professor of Philosophy and Director of the Women's Studies Program, has been selected as the 2006 recipient of the David Strand Diversity Achievement Award at Illinois State. The Strand Award was established

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Women's Studies Staff

Dr. Alison Bailey, Director	438-5617
Dr. Becca Chase, Assistant Director/Advisor	438-7361
Rozel White, Administrative Assistant	438-2947
Kate Smith, Graduate Assistant	438-2948
Drew Anastasia, Undergraduate Assistant	438-2428

and endowed twelve years ago by President Emeritus David Strand to recognize an individual faculty or staff member who has been instrumental in extraordinary curriculum or program



Alison Bailey and David Strand

activities that assist the University in responding to its commitment to diversity. "Professor Bailey has been dedicated to improving society's response to diversity for better than a decade, and her current activities demonstrate that this will continue to be a major

goal for her," remembered Dean Olson.

Dr. Bailey serves as a frequent organizer and host for the Midwest Society for Women in Philosophy (SWIP). She is the founder of the Bloomington/Normal Clothesline Project, which is a yearly visual display designed to build community awareness of violence against women and girls. Alison has offered regular support to the Women's Mentoring Network and Programming as well as to the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance, the student feminist group on campus.

In her most recent work Dr. Bailey examines cultural responses to racism, women of color's critiques of white feminist movements, and whiteness studies. For her current research she is exploring the intersections of race and epistemologies of ignorance. Her articles on gender and race privilege have appeared in *Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy*, *The Journal of Social Philosophy*, and *Feminist Ethics Revisted*. She is currently co-editing a special issue of *Hypatia* on race and reproduction with Jacqueline Zita, and *Feminism and Philosophy: A Reader* (McGraw-Hill) with Chris Cuomo.

Past recipients of the Strand Diversity Achievement Award include several on the Women's Studies faculty: Dr. Maria Canabal (Family and Consumer Sciences), Dr. Christopher Horvath (Philosophy and Biological Sciences), Dr. Louis Perez (History), Dr. Nancy Tolson (English), and Dr. Maura Toro-Morn (Sociology and Anthropology). ♀

An Electrifying Woman

By Becca Chase

Sitting in the comfortable, modern conference room in her office, Renée Riddle could be a midlevel manager at any corporation. But there is a display of electrician's tools where you might expect to see a flip chart. It is Friday, dress-down day, so she is wearing jeans and a sweatshirt with the "BNJATC" logo, which stands for the Bloomington-Normal Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), McLean County. From her attire and spunky demeanor, it is easy to picture her on the construction site, in boots and wearing a tool belt,

laying pipe, pulling the wires through, and connecting them. Ms. Riddle, BNJATC's Training Director and the second woman to become a journeyman electrician in McLean County, became an apprentice in 1980. She comes from a family of tradesmen but had little experience with such labor. After high school, Renée was working part-time as an office clerk when the IBEW hiring hall announced openings. Her electrician brother encouraged her to apply, and she was accepted.

As an apprentice, Renée says, her peers and the journeymen who taught her were supportive. Some older journeymen, however, were not used to working alongside women. "Many times I heard them say, 'Women should be barefoot and pregnant and making cookies,'" Riddle says, "but there was no way I was quitting." She credits her parents and siblings for encouraging her. After four years of night classes and on-the-job training, Riddle became a journeyman (the IBEW does not use the term "journeywoman"). She worked as a union electrician for the next 16 years.

Today women are accepted in the trade, at least in McLean County, claims Riddle. She knows of no cases of sexual harassment, and journeymen hold women to the same standards as men: "As long as women are doing the job and giving their best, they're accepted." Nevertheless, there are



only nine women union electricians working in McLean County, and the last female apprentice graduated two years ago. The situation is similar in other unions. There are five women in the carpenter's local, two in the cement local, and two in the sheet metal local.

If you are a woman interested in the construction trades, Riddle advises, take stock of your aptitudes. If you are agile, have manual dexterity, are willing to work in all kinds of conditions, have a good work ethic, and can stay focused, you may be suited to construction work. Electricians use algebra, geometry, and visual imagination to determine how to get the jobs done. On construction sites, you need to be able to read blueprints. In old houses, you have to visualize creative solutions. A college degree is not necessary, but many apprentices use the Heartland Community College credits they earn towards an electrical engineering or related degree, while making a living in the trade.

Electricians and other people in the construction trades are not guaranteed employment: Nine months a year is the average, cautions Riddle. However, the wages and benefits are good. Apprentice electricians hourly wages range from 45-85% of a journeyman's starting wage. The union contract provides pension and annuities, and health, dental, and vision insurance. (*continued*)

Renée's job has changed radically since she became training director. She oversees all program operations, teaches courses, and meets regularly with the BNJATC, which consists of three contractors and three journeymen. While she never expected to find herself back in an office, Renée still loves her work. Her job has variety, she works with the trades people she loves, and stays physically active. Renée Riddle is warm, bright, and powerful—a great example of a woman who has succeeded in the traditionally male construction trades. ♀

Student News

Alumni Update

Diana Onken recently accepted the Deputy Organizing Director position with NARAL Pro-Choice America. You can read about her new job at <http://www.prochoiceamerica.org/about/jobs/deputy-org-dir.cfm> (formerly National Abortion Rights Action League.) She says, "This is truly a dream job for me and I'm delighted to be joining the NARAL family again. I do have some concerns about balancing the NARAL job with graduate school and my new role as co-chair of the Peace Action board but I'm sure I will manage."

Tiffany Starnes has relocated to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where she is working with an AmeriCorps program called City Year. She is a member of the founding team responding to the disasters on the gulf coast. The program works in schools, tutoring and mentoring low-performing students. She is teaching displaced students from New Orleans. In addition, she is working with Habitat for Humanity in New Orleans, cleaning, painting murals, and helping out people in displaced communities. ♀

Welcome, Newcomers!

New WS minor:

Nicole Nalls, Psychology
Samantha Cox, General Student
Deandrea Williams, General Student
Deandrena Williams, General Student

New Graduate Certificate students:

Sarah Lushia, English
Maureen Anderson, English

Drag Show Auditions

By Kristy DeWall

PRIDE's annual charity drag show is creeping up on us! On Friday, March 31, PRIDE is unleashing this year's show in the Bone Student Center Ballroom. There are spaces for four student performers, preferably two queens and two kings (or some in between—create your own!). You don't have to have any previous drag experience, just some talent, drive and a flare to entertain the masses!

Auditions are on March 1 and 8 from 5:30-7:00pm in SSB 375. Sign up at the SGA office, SSB 130. Come as prepared and dressed as possible and/or use our dressing/make up room in SSB 314 to get yourself ready. Be ready to perform a one-and-a-half minute piece of your choice (bring your own music on CD). PRIDE is also preparing a video of 30-second clips of consenting auditioners to show during the intermission.

For more information contact Kristi DeWall at pro_activist@hotmail.com. ♀

The Vagina Monologues

By Annaliisa Ahlman



Lisa Bérubé and Sara Cole pose with the giant vulva

The sixth annual production of *The Vagina Monologues*, by Eve Ensler, was performed February 17-19 in the Prairie Room at the Bone Student Center. The show was directed by Annaliisa Ahlman, produced by the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance, and co-sponsored by many campus and community organizations. Cassidy Browning, Danielle Sanders, and Alicia Wesolowski served as production staff, and 13 talented women from the ISU community made up the cast. Ticket sales benefited YWCA Stepping Stones, CDV

Neville House, and Planned Parenthood of East Central Illinois. FMLA performed *Monologues* on February 28 at the Lincoln Correctional Center for women. The audience of 120 inmates participated in a talkback session with the actors and production staff after the performance. ♀



Student Winners Kirsten Dunlap (Dorothy E. Lee Award) and Lisa Bérubé (Women's Studies Achievement Award)

Faculty Accomplishments

Pat Badani exhibited “The Upgrade!” at the First International meeting and exhibition of artists and works concerning art, technology, and culture in New York and at the FILE International Electronic Festival & Symposium in Brazil; and “North-South-East-West 5.0 – The Fire Ceremony,” a transnational webcast video performance in collaboration with New Media artist Graham Thompson. Her illustrations also appeared in the books and journal *Le pain par Poilane*, by Lionel Poilane; *Die Lady Die*, by Alejandro López; *Hypermedias*; and *Contact Zones: Edge in Portable Cities and FragMental Storm*, by Melanie Swalwell.

Alison Bailey presented “Purity and Ignorance in Charles Mills’s Racial Contract” at the Feminist Ethics and Social Theory conference in Tampa, Florida, January 5-7 2006.

Kass Fleisher published a conceptual memoir, *Accidental Species: A Reproduction* (Chax Press 2005).

Victoria Harris will present “The Embodied Word: Poetry and Politics of Adrienne Rich” at the Poetry and Politics Conference at the University of Stirling, July 12-16 2006. She also published an entry on Robert Bly in the Greenwood Encyclopedia in January 2006.

Cynthia Huff published “Victorian Family Fictions” in *a/b: Auto/Biography Studies* 89-99 Vol. 19, Summer 2004.

Cynthia Kukla has been awarded a one-year sabbatical. During the fall of 2006 she will be a visiting artist at Aristotle Thessaloniki University in Thessaloniki, Greece.

Kathleen McKinney published the following in 2005: “Sociology Senior Majors’ Perceptions on Learning Sociology: A Research Note” and “Response to Hanson’s ‘The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning—Done by Sociologists: Let’s Make that the Sociology of Higher Education’” in *Teaching Sociology* and “Reflections on Learning Sociology: Analysis of Learning Log Entries” in *MountainRise 2*. She presented: “A Questionnaire Study of Views and Correlates of Success in Sociology” and “The Meaning of Making Public” at the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Vancouver, British Columbia; and “Dealing with Disruptive Behavior in the Classroom” at the American Sociological Association annual meeting in Philadelphia.

Sally Parry and Robert McLaughlin published *We’ll Always Have the Movies: American Cinema during World War II* (University Press of Kentucky).

In Memoriam

We remember, with gratitude for their spirits, accomplishments, and commitment to social justice, four great women who have died since our last issue. We mourn the passing of civil rights activist Coretta Scott King; second-wave feminist pioneer Betty Freidan; playwright Wendy Wasserstein; and, most recently, visionary science fiction writer, Nebula Award winner, and MacArthur Grant recipient Octavia E. Butler. ♀



Coretta Scott King



Betty Friedan



Wendy Wasserstein



Octavia E. Butler



Illinois State University Trustee Mike McCloskey visited the Women’s Studies Program office suite on February 20. Pictured with Mr. McCloskey are Director Alison Bailey and Assistant Director Becca Chase.

Women's Studies Calendar

Mar 7: Women's History Month Kick-Off Reception. BSC Old Main, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Mar 7: Feminism De/Constructed: Exploring a Feminist Identity in the "Third Wave," Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance meeting. BSC Brewster's, 7:00 p.m.

Mar 8: Deadline for WS Symposium papers, projects, art, and performance submissions. For information, see WS website.

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

Mar 8: Open Auditions for PRIDE's Annual Charity Drag Show, SSB 375, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

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

Mar 29: Rosa Alcalá, Poetry Reading and Discussion: "A New World Poetics: Langston Hughes and Ben Frederic Carruther's Translations of Nicolás Guillén's Poems in "Cuba Libre." Free Pizza! STV 401, 12:00 p.m.

Mar 30: Beyond Media: "Women! Action! Media!" Films and discussion by the grassroots media organization. COB 354.

"What We Leave Behind": Formerly incarcerated women speak about their experiences of incarceration as women and publicly address the impact of incarceration on children, 12:35-1:50 p.m.

"Beyond Disability: The Fe Fe Stories" The empowered Fe Fes (slang for females), a group of young women with disabilities hit the streets of Chicago on a quest to discover the difference between how they see themselves and how others see them, 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Mar 30-Apr 2: *Necessary Targets*, a play about women, war, violence, and refugees by Eve Ensler, directed by Kathleen Maki. Westhoff Theater, Mar. 30, 31, and Apr. 17:30 p.m.; and Apr. 1-2, 2 p.m.

Mar 31: Rosa Alcalá, Poetry Reading and Discussion. McLean County Art Center, 601 N. East St., Bloomington, 7:30 p.m.

Mar 31: The PRIDE Annual Charity Drag Show, BSC Ballroom, 7:00 p.m.

Apr 3-7: Sexual Assault Awareness Week.

Apr 3: Judith Arcana, "What if Your Mother" and new poems, poetry reading. STV 401, 12:00 p.m.

Apr 3: Judith Arcana, "JANE: The Abortion Counseling Service of the Chicago Women's Liberation Union, 1968-1973." STV 401, 3 p.m.

Apr 6: Dr. Andrea Smith, "Sexual Violence and American Indian Genocide" Schroeder 244, 7-9 p.m.

Apr 7: Women's Studies Symposium. University Galleries, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Keynote: Dr. Andrea Smith, "Native American Women, Reproductive Rights, and Genocide," 1:00 p.m.

Apr 12-13: Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance presents Stephen Thompson, expert on sexual aggression and harassment, time and location TBA.

Apr 18: Michele Vought, soprano, recital: "Lust, Laughter, and Las Vegas!" CPA Concert Hall, 8:00 p.m.

May 3: Phase IV: WS Five Year Planning Meeting. Ewing Manor, 2:00-5:00 p.m.

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

Summer Course Offering

ENG 365, "African American Literature: The Supernatural, Mysteries, and the Fantastic in the Writing of Black Women" Dr. Nancy D. Tolson
May 22 – June 16, 2006
M-R 11:55AM – 2:40PM

This course is dedicated to Black Women writers that create imaginary worlds, situations, and creatures that step out of the norm in order to reflect a message of Black feminist power. In this literature the protagonists reflect feminist power that deals with racism, sexuality, politics, history, humor and more. It expresses the future, present and past in order to give insight to a thought provoking path that's roots lay in folklore, spirituality, and the unknown.

Texts

My Soul to Keep, by Tananarive Due, Eos, 1998
What's a Woman Got to Do, by Evelyn Coleman, Dell, 1999
Blanche on the Lam, by Barbara Neely, Penguin, 1993
Wild Seed, by Octavia E. Butler, Aspect, 1999
Justice and Her Brothers, by Virginia Hamilton, Point Signature, 1998
Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness, and the Politics of Empowerment, by Patricia Hill Collins, Routledge, 1990
MLA Handbook, 6th Edition

**Women's Voice
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Summer 2006 Required Courses

WS120	Women, Gender and Society	July 17- August 10	MTWR 1:25-4:15pm
WS390	Interdisciplinary Research	ARRANGE	ARRANGE
WS398	Professional Practice	ARRANGE	ARRANGE
WS400	Independent Study	ARRANGE	ARRANGE

Summer 2006 Elective Courses

C/E/F128	Gender and the Humanities	INTERNET COURSE	Class only meets 6/19 and TBA
ENG365	African American Literature: Writing of Black Women	May 22- June 16	MTWR 11:55am-2:40pm
PHI202	Sex, Values, and Human Nature	May 22- June 9	MTWR 2:55-6:55pm
POL337	Gay and Lesbian Politics	June 19- July 14	MTWR 10:25am-1:15pm
POL 338	Gender and Public Policy	July 17- Aug. 11	MTWR 10:25am-1:15pm
PSY305	Psychology of Women	May 22- June 15	MTWR 10:25am-1:15pm
SOC264	Minority Relations	June 19- July 13	MTWR 10:25am-1:15pm

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