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Women's Voice

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

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1-2005

## Women's Voice, Volume 10, Issue 3, January/February 2005

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

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## How Should Feminists Think about War and Militarism?

Alison Bailey, Acting Director

Have you ever been to a military museum like Wright Patterson in Ohio, or the Imperial War museum in London? If you have, you will find the exhibitions arranged historically and thematically. War is presented as an event – a collection of political happenings, battles, and government responses. Wars have clear beginnings and ends marked by declarations, negotiations, and treaties. You will also find exhibits on industry, the media, weaponry, planes, tanks, uniforms, and some attention to life during wartime. When exhibitions are arranged this way, women enter as nurses, mothers supporting the war effort, relief volunteers, civil defense leaders, and less frequently as revolutionaries or enlistees. The overall reality of women's experience in war is either co-opted – women become four-star mothers who gave their son's lives for the cause – or erased.

Historically, Western feminists have theorized war within the war-as-event framework. They have raised questions about women's so-called natural peacefulness, the role of women in military service, and the impact of wars on women. But the event-focused approach has outlived its usefulness, and I am not talking about just since 9.11. For the past decade or so, feminists and their allies have been addressing questions of gender, race, colonialism, and militarism by thinking about war as a continual presence (Schott, 1996; Cuomo, 1996), armed conflict being just one of the many horrible symptoms of militarism.

So, what does militarism have to do with gender? Military pursuits have long been considered "men's work," but armed conflict and militarist ideologies have had a great impact on women globally. A gender analysis of militarism is essential to both feminists and peace activists working toward a world free of all forms of violence, injustice, and oppression. Militarism refers to much more than state armed forces and practices. Militarism is an institutionalized way of thinking whose influence permeates all sectors of society and culture.

One useful definition of this complex idea comes from the World Council of Churches, which defines militarism as the result of the process by which "military values, ideologies and patterns of behavior achieve a dominating influence on the political, cultural, social, economic and external affairs of the state, and as a result the structural, ideological and behavioral patterns of both the culture and the government are 'militarized'. Material forms of militarism include wars and direct military interventions, the destabilization of countries through proxy armies, foreign-sponsored coups, foreign and colonial occupation, military rule, and abuse of human rights. The ideological manifestations of militarism are more difficult to identify because often they are normalized by the society. They include the infusion of military values, symbols, and language into nonmilitary culture, which promotes acceptance of hierarchies, a nationalism that defines the "other" as enemy, violence as a legitimate means of resolving conflicts, and strict division of masculine and feminine roles. This is reinforced in civilian life by media productions that glorify war, manufacture fear, and portray violence as necessary. As violence becomes accepted, it is minimized through language that distorts and sanitizes its impact. Iraqi civilian deaths become "collateral damage" and their numbers don't make the evening news, nations we hate become an "axis of evil," and armies of occupation are described as armies of liberation.

If military ideology affects all facets of society, then why should a feminist analysis be any different than existing analyses? Short answer: As political thinkers, women have had much to say about militarism because the impact of militarism on women's and girl's lives is staggering and unique. If we think of militarism as a presence rather than an event, its unique impact on these lives becomes visible. What would it be like if museum exhibitions were curated from this standpoint? Let's imagine walking through a The Museum of Militarism.

Exhibit #1: "Militarism Cuts Social Programs." Pictures are displayed showing scenes such as a single mother putting a latchkey around her young child's neck before sending him to school; a crowded waiting room in an urban hospital; a farmer standing defeated as her equipment is hauled away. The text reads, "War is expensive and must be funded at the cost of health care, education, and social security." A few weeks ago the Bush administration promised us a \$2.57 trillion budget plan "that sets priorities." These priorities

(continued on page 2)

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR - CONTINUED

(From the Director – continued from page 1)

boost spending on the military and homeland security, but seek to reduce subsidies paid to farmers, cut health programs for poor people and veterans, and trim spending on the environment and education. About one-third of the programs being targeted for elimination are in the Education Department. The budget would cut \$440 million in Safe and Drug-Free School grants, \$500 million in education technology state grants, \$225 million for the Even Start literacy program, \$280 million for Upward Bound programs for inner-city youths, and a \$150 million talent research program. Other targets include Medicaid, the federal-state health insurance program for the poor and disabled; farmers' subsidy payments; student loans; and veterans' medical services. Budget cuts put safe and accessible healthcare for low-income women and older women in severe danger. They also place more demands on women with children. Think about it: Who is primarily responsible for the health of your family? Which sex lives longer? Who is primarily responsible for education? Who works with students in after school programs?

Exhibit #2: How Will I Provide for the Family during the War? A woman and her daughter are trying to find food and fire wood and trying to care for their family in U.S.-occupied Afghanistan. The narrator says:

Women are primarily responsible for the medical, nutritional, and domestic needs of their families. Armed conflicts draw large numbers of combatants and weapons into areas populated by civilians, which raises the level of tension and all too often brings the conflict into the homes of civilians. Women frequently have to submit to limitations on their mobility or risk abuse and injury; this restricts their access to markets and their ability to farm and tend animals, search for firewood, exchange news, and seek family support. Restrictions on freedom of movement during wartime include curfews, roadblocks, checkpoints, and closure of geographical areas. These restrictions are enforced by the military, often with the use of force. They have a devastating effect on women, barring their access to food, work, and medical attention.

Exhibit #3: Militarism Increases Rape, Prostitution, and Forced Sexual Slavery. In this museum there would also be a reconstruction of a brothel/disco where soldiers go to pick up sex workers. One display case focuses on the Philippines and explains how U.S. base commanders worked with local bars to hire Philippine women to live on base with men. Another illustrates how the U.S. military tested soldiers for sexually transmitted infections, but refused to provide sex workers with pap smears or medical exams. Press a button to hear stories of lives of women who worked around Subic Bay and Clark Bases.

The next display tells the story of women in Hawaii during World War II. There is a model of the rooms used by officers and those used by rank and file soldiers. There are separate doors for white and African-American soldiers. The text reads: "In these rooms 250,000 men a month paid \$3 for 3 minutes of sex. The U.S. Government charged women \$1.00 a year to register as entertainers, but passed legislation to keep prostitutes from marrying soldiers, owning land, cars, or going out after 10:30 p.m."

Fifty years later the picture darkens. Military base prostitution has led to the devastating spread of HIV among prostitutes. What are the implications of militarism and AIDS? Sex workers are still blamed for the spread of HIV/AIDS. Yet, it should be widely recognized that the U.S. military was and is a key player in the introduction and spread of the disease in the Philippines and Thailand. It is extremely likely that military and pro-military forces in Africa are in part responsible for the spread of HIV/AIDS. Approximately every fourth woman in Southern Africa is infected. African women account for 85 percent of all global female infections. Militarism is said to have brought Africa to its knees economically by diverting valuable resources from AIDS to weapons procurement. Since nearly half of the continent's countries are embroiled in war, there is little money to be wrung out once the military sponge has soaked up the resources.

In the next room a film called "How Militarism Increases Violence against Women" is playing. The lights dim and the narrator (probably Susan Sarandon) says, "In times of war, military-sponsored rape becomes commonplace. Rape is frequently used as a tool to further 'ethnic cleansing'; it is standard operating procedure. In Bosnia-Herzegovina, an estimated 20,000 women and girls were raped by the Serbian military in the early 1990's. Rape was used as a strategy to terrorize the population and eliminate Muslims from the region by impregnating women and forcing them to bear Serbian children." The next scene is more hopeful. Yugoslavian Activists Jadranka Cigeli and Nustreta Sivic testify before The Hague for the arrest of eight men charged with "sexual assault for the purpose of torture or enslavement." It is the first time in history that rape is being prosecuted as a crime against humanity.

The climate of militarism also easily gives way to domestic violence. In the summer of 2002, four wives of U.S. military officers, all stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, were killed by their husbands. Three of the four officers had recently returned to the country after being deployed to Afghanistan as special operations soldiers. It is suspected that these women were victims of domestic violence long before their murder, but could not or chose not to obtain help. "This is not surprising," says Cynthia Enloe, who has documented how during times of war, "soldiers' girlfriends and wives...[have] been persuaded that they are 'good citizens' if they keep silent about problems in their relationships" (Enloe, 1990).

There is one last exhibit before the gift shop: "Women and Resistance." Here visitors are surrounded by images of women organizing against militarism. There are photographs of Argentine Mothers of the Disappeared demonstrating in the Plaza de Mayo every Thursday, demanding that their government investigate the disappearance of their children. There are images of the global women's peace camps at RAF Greenham Common in England; at Seneca Falls, New York; and at Comiso, Italy that bore witness to the Reagan administration's nuclear buildup. Another display explains how a small group of Israeli women carried out a simple form of protest in Jerusalem one month after the first Palestinian *intifada* broke out by wearing black clothing and holding placards reading "Stop the Occupation." More recent images are displayed of the women of Code Pink who held a four-month-all-day rolling vigil at the White House to oppose the U.S. war in Iraq. A March on Washington with more than 10,000 women and men from around the U.S. was held on International Women's Day, March 8, 2003. It was accompanied by their signature "pink slip" (as in women's lingerie) action that presents slips to bureaucrats who are not doing their job and demands that they represent the people, or be fired.

If we thought of war as a continual presence and not just as an event that happens somewhere else, would our thinking change?

Cuomo, Chris. 1996. War is not just an event: Reflections on the significance of everyday militarism. *Hypatia* 11:4 (Fall 1996), pp. 30-46.

Enloe, Cynthia. 1990. *Bananas, beaches, and bases: Making feminist sense of international politics*. Berkeley, CA: Univ. of California Press.

Schott, Robin. 1996. Gender and "postmodern war." *Hypatia* 11:4 (Fall 1996), pp. 19-30. ■

Women's Studies Presents:  
**ISUsks.com, Sexual Harassment and Stalking:  
Are You Safe on the Web?**

**Wednesday, March 23  
Old Main Room, Bone Student Center  
7pm-9pm**

A public presentation and open discussion with Jennifer Welch,  
Women's Policy Advisor, Illinois Attorney General's Office

# WOMEN'S STUDIES NEWS AND UPDATES

## Kanayq Hayots Armenian Women's Collective Update

Shushan Avagyan

Last year, at our Ninth Annual Symposium in Women's Studies, I briefly talked about the Kanayq Hayots Armenian Women's Collective, which I co-founded back home with a group of women from Yerevan State University (YSU). I described the Resource Center that we were setting up and expressed my dream to create a library of feminist literature from all areas of study for the students at YSU. At the end of the Symposium, keynote speaker Dr. Berenice Fisher and I discussed the problems and achievements of the Kanayq Hayots Collective. We exchanged e-mails, and a month later she contacted me to donate books to the Center. I was overjoyed! Once everything was confirmed, I arranged for Fisher to ship the books through the American embassy to Armenia, and during the month of November Fisher sent over a hundred women's studies-related books, as well as two long runs of the journals *Signs* and *Feminist Studies*. The donation also included issues of the *National Women's Studies Association Journal*, *Radical Teacher*, *Feminist Teacher* and a scattering of other journals that have feminist content. The collection of books and journals are from Fisher's private library accumulated over the course of her career and, according to her, she is very pleased to see them find a new worthy home.

When I arrived at home during the winter break I was greeted by several boxes of neatly packed and numbered books, waiting for the new shelves at the Center that we had ordered for them. I would like to thank Berenice for her invaluable investment, vision and inspiration. ■

## "Politics of Memory" Conference Raises Important Questions

The Graduate Student Conference on the "Politics of Memory," held at the Margery Ellis Library of Stevenson Hall on December 3, commenced with a panel on the personal and political uses of memory. In the first session, Erin Johnson discussed Isabel Allende's novel *The House of the Spirits* and the persistence of memory marred by General Augusto Pinochet in the history of Chile. Another panelist, Shushan Avagyan, read a feminist analysis of the play *Beast of the Moon*, by Richard Kalinoski, drawing parallels between acts of genocide and domestic abuse. Bridget Flynn, in the second session, discussed the abduction and rape of Hindu and Muslim women during Indian partition and the erasure of their experience from communal memory.

Dr. Rebecca Saunders opened the keynote session with her paper "And the Women Waived in Answer: Women's Lament Traditions and Political Memory," in which she traced the ritual idiosyncrasies of lamentation in various geographic locales, and its role in establishing solidarity among the women involved. She explained how lamentations, as instruments of cultural power, are ignored in modernity and replaced by medicalized and professionalized responses to death.

The other keynote speaker, Aisha Fofana Ibrahim, presented an excerpt from her dissertation, "War's Other Voices," on Sierra Leone's Civil War between 1991 and 2002, based on the testimonies of Sierra Leonean women. The women combatants interviewed by Ibrahim testified about their roles in the war. The widespread denial in Sierra Leone of the presence and roles of women and girls in this war, according to Ibrahim, prevented women and girls from being included in the disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration program; and, more importantly, devalued, marginalized, and obliterated their experiences. ■

## Retired Professor Works on Museum Exhibit

Retired women's history professor Dr. Sandra Harmon has contributed to the latest exhibit at the McLean County Museum of History. Dr. Harmon collaborated with museum curator Susan Hartzold to research and write *Journey through the Great Depression*. *Journey* tells how the 1930s affected life here in Central Illinois.



Students Walking to School 10-18-1938

Harmon and Hartzold worked together to identify over 370 artifacts and 200 images from the museum's collection and outside sources that were used in the exhibit. The Pantagraph, which sponsored the exhibit, opened its archives to be searched for images that brought the era to life. An important part of the exhibit is the personal narratives of McLean County residents. Twenty-five people were interviewed and their recollections of the depression are chronicled throughout the exhibit.

*Journey through the Great Depression* remains open until August 2007. The Museum is located at 200 N. Main Street in downtown Bloomington and is open daily. ■

## Women's History Month Calendar

### MARCH

- 1 Women's History Month Kick-Off, Circus Room, BSC, 6 p.m.
- 5 "War's Other Voices: Testimonies by Sierra Leonean Women," Aisha Fofana Ibrahim, International Women's Day Breakfast, 9-11 a.m. Reservation required by Feb. 26, \$13, 309-862-4565.
- 7 "Sexual Assault Awareness: How to Listen to Student Survivors," brown bag with Gail Trimpe-Morrow, Stevenson 132, noon.
- 7 The Guerilla Girls, "Resistant Feminist Art and Theater," Bradley University, Neumuller Lecture Hall, 6:30 p.m.
- 9 Women's History Month, Poetry Fest, Coffeehouse, Normal, 7:30-9 p.m., featured artist Susan B. Anthony Sommers-Willet (U of I).
- 10 "Reproductive Health in Balance," Lorie Chaiten, Director of the Reproductive Rights Project of the ACLU, Stevenson 401, 12:30-2:00 p.m.
- 10 "Reproductive Health in Balance," Lorie Chaiten, Director of the Reproductive Rights Project of the ACLU, Normal Public Library, 7-8:45 p.m.
- 23 "ISUskanks: Are You Safe on the Web?," Jennifer Welch, Illinois Attorney General's Office, Old Main Room, 7-9 p.m. Come find out about Illinois harassment law, hidden harms, and what you can do.
- 24 WomenTeach, "Gender and Pedagogy," brown bag discussion for faculty, Rachel Cooper, Room 237, 12-1 p.m.
- 30 Sherry Gorelick, "Women in Black: Women Peacemakers in Israel" Noon, Stevenson 401, Free Pizza.
- 30 Maria Arana, journalist, Circus Room, 6-7:30 pm.

### APRIL

- 8 Tenth Annual Women's Studies Symposium, 9-4:30 p.m., University Galleries, CVA 110; Edris Cooper-Anifowoshe, keynote, 1 p.m.
- 13 Kate Bornstein, performance artist and gender outlaw, 7 p.m., Bone Student Center, sponsored by PRIDE. ■

# FACULTY AND STAFF RECOGNITION

## Tolson Receives David Strand Diversity Achievement Award

From ISU Media Relations



Nancy Tolson with David Strand

A doctoral and master's degree graduate of the University of Iowa, Tolson is considered by her colleagues as a public intellectual impacting teaching in areas such as African, African-American, and multicultural children's literature. Her work also engages Women's Studies, storytelling, and the literary and oral cultures of the African diaspora.

Tolson, who has been faculty advisor for the Black Writers Forum at Illinois State, assists in students' development by exposing them to black writers in her courses and at national conferences. She also has invited several award-winning authors and poets to campus. She was a key source in the development of the African-American Studies program at Illinois State and also served on the 2003-2004 Diversity Task Force for the College of Arts and Sciences. A volunteer in adult literacy programs, Tolson provided learning service projects for her ISU students to assist literacy enrichment for the students at Bent Elementary School in Bloomington. ■

## Leatherman Appointed Director of International Affairs

From *CASNews*



Janie Leatherman (left) with Kaisa Stadnik, Director of the English Language Institute

Dr. Leatherman brings a vast array of experience and talent to the position. She holds a Ph.D. in International Studies from the Graduate School of International Studies at the University of Denver. She has studied and worked abroad at a number of universities, speaks Spanish with native fluency, and has a command of several other languages. She also has substantial experience with study abroad, curriculum development, international collaboration on research projects and foreign policy initiatives, and a successful record of external funding through agencies in the U.S. and from foreign governments. She has a national and international reputation as a scholar and peace and conflict practitioner, and thus has many connections with universities and faculty in both developed and developing countries.

"Dr. Leatherman has combined an outstanding record of scholarship in international affairs with related service and teaching. She has been responsible for organizing the model U.N. at Illinois State for many years and

is co-director of the program in peace studies," said Associate Dean Jonathan Rosenthal. "She has been involved in study abroad as student, faculty, and administrator. We are delighted that she has agreed to bring this breadth of experience to this new position in the College."

Dr. Leatherman's new responsibilities will include: (1) coordinating area studies initiatives within the College, (2) serving as advocate for the integration of an international perspective across the curriculum, (3) leading in the development of a strategic plan to increase international collaborations in research and teaching, (4) developing an action plan to enhance study abroad opportunities for our students and to facilitate international students' access to our programs, (5) developing an action plan to enhance research abroad opportunities for faculty, and (6) supervising and collaborating with the Director of the English Language Institute in order to increase the institute's profile, viability, and centrality campus-wide. ■

## Faculty and Staff Accomplishments

**Pat Badani** presented at the Quarterly Colloquia at Northwestern University's Center for Art & Technology in Evanston, IL. She discussed the changing spatial logic created by new networks of communication. She is also the recipient of a 2002 Canada Council Media Arts Research Grant.

**Kyle Ciani** is the recipient of a University Teaching Initiative Award. Her article "Hidden Laborers: Female Day Workers in Detroit, 1870-1920," appeared in the January 2005 edition of the *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era*.

**Sara Cole's** article "Sexual compulsivity among heterosexual college students" was published in the *Journal of Sex Research*, 41(4), 343-350. She co-authored the article with B. Dodge, M. Reece, and T. G. Sandfort.

**Linda J. Douglas** has a one-person exhibition at the International Museum of Surgical Science in Chicago. The exhibition runs from February 4 - April 22.

**Chris Horvath** is the 2005 recipient of the Outstanding University Service Award.

**Melissa Oresky's** show "In the Shallows" was exhibited at the Van Harrison Gallery in Chicago from Dec. 10, 2004 - Feb. 5, 2005. She is also the recipient of a 2005 Illinois Arts Council fellowship.

**Kathleen McKinney's** "Sociology Senior Majors' Perceptions on Learning Sociology: A Research Note" is in press at *Teaching Sociology*. She also co-wrote, with C. W. Howery, et al. and members of the Task Force on the Undergraduate Major of the American Sociology Association, *Liberal Learning and the Sociology Major Updated: Meeting the Challenges of Teaching Sociology in the Twenty-First Century* (ASA).

**Marla Reese-Weber** has two new publications: Reese-Weber, M., & Kahn, J. H., "Familial predictors of sibling and romantic-partner conflict resolution: Comparing late adolescents from intact and divorced families," forthcoming in the *Journal of Adolescence*; and, Marchard, J. F. & Reese-Weber, M., "Husbands' and wives' attachment anxiety and depressive symptoms: Predictors of positive and negative conflict behaviors in marriage," forthcoming in the *Journal of Adult Development*.

**Julie Webber** has published "Schooling and the Security State" in David A. Gabbard and E. Wayne Ross (eds.) *Defending Public Schools* (Praeger 2004). She also completed a book review of *U.S. Hegemony and International Organizations*, Resemary Foot, S. Neit MacFarlane and Michael Mastanduno (eds.), for *Political Science Quarterly*. She presented two papers at the 2004 International Studies Association Conference in Montreal, Canada: "After Doubt: Philosophies without Human Rights in a Global Frame," and "Beyond Global Arrogance: The Avatars of New Transnational Spaces." ■

## CALL FOR PAPERS

Faculty - Please encourage your students to submit abstracts or complete papers that they prepared for your classes to the Women's Studies Programming Committee for consideration for the spring symposium.

# Tenth Annual Women's Studies Symposium

Friday  
April 8, 2005  
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

University Art  
Galleries

Illinois State  
University

*For more information, contact  
Women's Studies at:  
(309) 438-2947  
e-mail Rozel White at:  
wstudies@ilstu.edu  
or visit our website at:  
<http://www.womenstudies.ilstu.edu>*

## Call for Papers

Panels in the morning and afternoon

Lunch at noon

Keynote Address (1:00 pm)

Dr. Edris Cooper-Anifowoshe

Writer, Performer, and Artist

"Life During Wartime: Wailing, Waiting, and Womanhood"

### Call for Papers

Undergraduate and graduate students are invited to submit proposals for presentation of papers at the Symposium. Proposals/papers are welcome on any topic related to the study of women and gender. Outstanding papers on women and gender issues prepared for courses will be especially welcome!

### Proposal

Please send a one-page proposal with the following information to the address below, by **March 8, 2005**:

Proposed paper title

Your name

The course for which and the professor for whom you wrote/are writing the paper

Your address, telephone number, and e-mail

Please briefly describe your proposed presentation. Where relevant, include a summary of the main argument or findings, your research methodology (if applicable), and sources of information/data.

Send to:

Women's Studies Programming Committee

Illinois State University

Campus Box 4260

Normal, IL 61790-4260

or bring your proposal to the Women's Studies offices, Rachel Cooper, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, or e-mail [wstudies@ilstu.edu](mailto:wstudies@ilstu.edu). ■



# TENTH ANNUAL WOMEN'S STUDIES SYMPOSIUM

## Performing Artist and Director Edris Cooper-Anifowoshe to be Keynote Speaker at the Tenth Annual Women's Studies Symposium



Dr. Edris Cooper-Anifowoshe

**Undergraduate and Graduate  
Student Presentations**

**Friday, April 8, 2005  
9:00 AM to 4:00 PM**

**“Life During Wartime:  
Wailing, Waiting and Womanhood”**

**Keynote Address at 1:00 PM**

**University Art Galleries  
Center for the Visual Arts**

**Edris Cooper-Anifowoshe** is an actor, director, and creator of several solo projects, including *Political Gossip* and *Adventures of a Black Girl in Search of Academic Clarity and Inclusion*. She is the Artistic Director and Co-Founder of the Black Artists Contemporary Cultural Experience. She is also an Associate Artist with Rhodessa Jones' *Medea Project; Theatre for Incarcerated Women*. She has directed *Yellowman* at Denver's Curious Theatre; the world premiere of Cassandra Medley's *Relativity* at the Magic Theatre in San Francisco; August Wilson's *Piano Lesson*, and the world premiere of Robert Alexander's *A Preface to the Alien Garden*, both at the Trinity Repertory Company. She was awarded the Dean Goodman Award for Excellence for her production of *The Old Settler* at TheatreWorks in Palo Alto. She also received Best Production, two Best Acting Awards, and an Outstanding Direction nomination at the 2003 Rabin awards for *The Old Settler* in Dallas, Texas.

Most recently, Edris received a grant from the Film Arts Foundation to direct a series of satirical PSAs in digital video format, an original project entitled *The Third Side*. She currently teaches acting on a one-year guest artist appointment at Naropa University in Boulder, Colorado.

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Admission to the symposium and luncheon is free, but luncheon reservation by April 1<sup>st</sup> is requested.

For more information about the Women's Studies Symposium or to make a luncheon reservation, call or e-mail Rozel White at 309-438-2947 or [wstudies@ilstu.edu](mailto:wstudies@ilstu.edu).

This program is organized and sponsored by the Women's Studies Program with additional assistance from the Department of Physics.

If you need a special accommodation to fully participate in this event, please contact Women's Studies at 309-438-2947. Please allow sufficient time to arrange the accommodation.

Printed on recycled paper. 

# STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

## Anastasia Awarded Acorn Scholarship

This December, Women's Studies minor Angeline Anastasia was awarded the Acorn Equality Fund Scholarship. In 1999, several leaders in the downstate Illinois area identified a gap in support for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students. To address the need for support for LGBT students outside of the Chicago metropolitan area, they established the Phoenix Equality Fund. In 2001,



Angeline Anastasia at the Take Back the Night rally

the organization changed its name to the Acorn Equality Fund, with a mission to "support the health, education and civil rights of LGBT individuals and their allies in downstate Illinois" (<http://www.lgbtiving.org/foundations/acorn.htm>).

Anastasia was chosen from a field of candidates across the state, excluding Cook County. Director Randy Maxwell commented that Illinois State University has produced a large number of scholarship recipients over the past six years. Anastasia is a senior Sociology major and women's studies minor as well as the Vice President of the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance. She plans on using the scholarship to further her passion for working toward social justice and peace through education. ■

## Tiffany Starnes Awarded Women's Studies Achievement Award

Tiffany Starnes is this year's recipient of the Women's Studies Achievement Award. This \$250 award is given yearly to a graduating women's studies minor student. The student is selected on the basis of academic standing overall and in the minor, and for service to the Women's Studies Program and the Bloomington-Normal community. Tiffany is recognized for her work with homelessness and hunger awareness on campus and in McLean County. Her article on Hunger and Homelessness Awareness follows. ■



Tiffany Starnes at a protest in Washington, D.C.

## Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Tiffany Starnes

On November 8-14, 2004, Illinois State University hosted its first Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, sponsored by the University Program Board. The week began with a Kick-Off on the Quad with signs posted with statistics, such as "40% of homeless persons are employed." Other activities included a canned goods and clothing sculpture building contest, a candlelight vigil, speakers from the Chicago Coalition for Homelessness, a panel of local activists who are working on issues of hunger and homelessness in the Bloomington/Normal community, and a "Fast for a Day." The week's activities ended with an Oxfam Hunger Banquet designed to mirror the distribution of food and resources globally.

I have first-hand knowledge of hunger and homelessness. When my parents divorced, my mother was left alone to raise three young children, two younger sisters (ages 2 and 1) and myself (age 10). I had to grow up quickly and learn how to take care of young children, cook, clean, and take care of myself. Though my mother worked two jobs, her meager wages could not cover all the costs of raising three children. To feed everyone we had to go to food pantries. Later in life, I also experienced homelessness before being placed in the foster care system.

I share my story because it is important to me that people see the different faces and hear the voices of hunger and homelessness. I first learned of the Hunger and Homelessness Awareness program at a conference I attended last spring. I knew right away that this was something I wanted to see on our campus. I brought back this idea and served as the main organizer for the Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. It is extremely important to me to raise awareness about these issues and to break down stereotypes and myths surrounding hunger and homelessness. While some people are hungry because of poor decisions, money mismanagement, or addictions, millions more are hungry due to structural inequalities that keep them poor. Millions are working two or even three jobs to try to get by and just can't make it. We, as a people, need to reexamine our own perceptions and our state and federal governments needs to reconsider its social and economic programs that place people in these situations. ■

## Student Accomplishments

Grace Foote Johns completed her Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies in December 2004. Her capstone research project and paper were titled "Enhancing the Academy: An Ethnographic Case Study of Women and Minority Undergraduate Science Majors," which examined issues such as career mentoring that impact student recruitment and retention. Dr. Maura Toro-Morn was Grace's Research Mentor.

Aisha Ibrahim received the Ada Belle Clark Welsh Scholarship and the Lela Winegarner Scholarship at this year's CAS awards program. She will also be the keynote speaker at the AAUW International Women's Day Breakfast.

Angie Anastasia and Stephanie Bridges were invited to attend the Woodhull Institute for Ethical Leadership in Chicago. ■

## Brett Cassens Memorial Scholarship for GLBT Students of Medicine

The Dean of Students Office is pleased to invite applications for the Dr. Brett Cassens Memorial Scholarship. Gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender students committed to a career in medicine who are juniors or seniors with a cumulative GPA of 3.2 or higher are eligible. The scholarship was established in Brett's memory through the Cassens/Stille Trust to support the GLBT community at ISU with an interest in careers in medicine. It is a one-time stipend of \$1000. Applications can be found at [www.interculturalprograms.ilstu.edu/pdfs/BrentCassensScholarship\[1\].pdf](http://www.interculturalprograms.ilstu.edu/pdfs/BrentCassensScholarship[1].pdf). ■

**The Women's Studies Program offers a resource room for students in Rachel Cooper 237. Students are invited to browse the publications, work on group projects, or use the space for studying quietly. The hours are normally Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Contact Women's Studies with questions.**



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

**Tenth Annual  
WOMEN'S STUDIES SYMPOSIUM**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2005  
9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.**

**UNIVERSITY ART GALLERIES  
CENTER FOR THE VISUAL ARTS**

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT 1:00 P.M.**

Pre-registration required for free lunch. You may register by returning the adjacent form or sending an email to [wstudies@ilstu.edu](mailto:wstudies@ilstu.edu).

Contact Women's Studies for further information by telephone (309-438-2947).

If you need a special accommodation to fully participate in this event, please contact Women's Studies at 309-438-2947. Please allow sufficient time to arrange the accommodation.

**Women's Studies Symposium  
Lunch Reservation Form**

**Friday, April 8, 2005**

**PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR FREE LUNCH  
PLEASE RETURN NO LATER THAN**

**Friday, April 1, 2005**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Sandwich Preference: Vegan\_\_ Vegetarian\_\_ Meat\_\_**

Please detach and mail, e-mail, or fax to:

**Women's Studies Program, Illinois State University, 237 Rachel  
Cooper, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Campus Box 4260, Normal, IL 61790-4260.**

**Phone: (309) 438-2947, Fax: (309) 438-5104,**

**E-mail: [wstudies@ilstu.edu](mailto:wstudies@ilstu.edu).**