



Strategic Planning Process Comes to a Productive Close

By Alison Bailey

This year has flown by so quickly, it seems we hardly have had time to catch our breath! It is definitely time to slow down and reflect on all the progress we have made. We have broadened our campus community, increased our visibility, and strengthened our connections with the Bloomington-Normal community. Your efforts have helped to generate a challenging creative vision for our program over the next five years. The College of Arts and Sciences has supported our efforts financially and administratively. "I have been extremely impressed with the seriousness and thoroughness with which Women's Studies has approached the strategic planning process," says Dean Gary Olson. "It is refreshing to see the process done so well, and I am sure these efforts will pay off in the end."

While this newsletter comes to you before the final planning meeting of the year, we can report that the Program has accomplished several major changes. Circulation of the *Women's Voice* newsletter has increased and we now distribute it electronically. Faculty members have participated in the newly formed Women's Research Consortium, agreed to act as liaisons to programs and departments throughout the University, and are conducting a feasibility study for a new LGBT/Queer Studies Certificate. Our new website design will be in place this summer. We have strengthened our partnership with the Women's Mentoring Network on programming for nontraditional-aged students. Our decision to change the name of the program from "Women's Studies" to "Women and Gender Studies" is being considered by the college office.

The Hile Group skillfully helped us through the planning process as we have identified what we want to take place over

the next four years. I am happy to report that Julie Hile again has generously donated her services to us for the coming year to guide us as we begin to implement our visions.

We have increased our visibility on campus through some terrific programming and local events. This year we partnered with the Philosophy Department to host two lectures by Charles Mills on racism and social contract theory. Our second annual Women's Studies PoetryFest at the coffeehouse was well attended. Along with the YWCA, the President's Office, and the History Department, we brought Andrea Smith to work with the YWCA's Stepping Stones sexual assault awareness program, and to deliver two on-campus lectures on sexual violence and Native American genocide. We partnered with The Women's Project to bring in poet Judith Arcana to give a reading and lecture and to lead a workshop for theater students who were involved in Janet Wilson's wonderful new play, *LifeChoices*. We co-hosted poet Rosa Alcalá with English Studies. Erica Meiners and Laurie Fuller of Chicago's grassroots educational organization Beyond Media screened two films followed by discussions. Finally, we look forward to hosting The National Women's Music Festival in July, which has found a new home at Illinois State University.

Our students have accomplished much, too. Our student organization received an award from the university (see Student News). Graduate students have distinguished themselves through conference presentations, publications, and awards. Graduate and undergraduate students presented an excellent program at our 11th Annual Women's Studies Symposium. We have heard also from alumni who are doing great work in social services and other careers for which their women's studies backgrounds have been essential.

Next year promises even more new growth, as we consider how to implement the more challenging goals resulting from this week's Phase IV planning retreat. Thanks again for your passionate contributions to the program this year. Have a relaxing summer. Inhale, exhale. . . ♀

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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	438-2948

Farewell to Fabulous Women

By Alison Bailey

María Canabal is retiring after 20 years at ISU, and has taken a position as chair of the Family and Consumer Sciences Department at Texas State University. The university is located in San Marcos, between Austin and San Antonio in the Texas Hill Country. It has approximately 27,000 students and the department has over 1,000 students in five programs. She tells us that she will always be grateful to the Women's Studies Program at Illinois State University for providing the opportunity to engage in stimulating dialogue through her participation in multiple activities over the years.

Aisha Ibrahim is returning to Sierra Leone, where she eventually hopes to secure a job as an assistant professor at the University of Sierra Leone. She has been recruited to work as a consultant/researcher on an Institute of Development Studies project being hosted by the Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana. This project is funded by UNESCO and focuses on examining the role and impact of women in Sierra Leone, Ghana, Nigeria, and Liberia.

Janie Leatherman has accepted a job as Director of International Studies at Fairfield University in Fairfield, Connecticut, where she has been charged to reconceptualize the program, hire new faculty, and organize conferences and research initiatives. This opportunity draws on her training in international studies and interests in curriculum and research. Dr. Leatherman also will be launching a project on sexual violence and war that Polity Press has commissioned her to develop into a book for classroom adoption. She is very excited to be close to Manhattan, where she has many ties to the international policy-making community, and where key contacts for the project on sexual violence and war are located.

We will miss Janie, Aisha, and Maria for the wonderful women they are and for their stellar contributions to Womens' Studies and tireless efforts to raise awareness of gender in international relations on campus. We wish all of them the best of luck in their new adventures! ♀

Feminist Play *LifeChoices* Premieres at ISU

By Becca Chase

On April 23 an exciting new production premiered at Illinois State University's Allen Theater. Last fall theater students interviewed local women who volunteered to talk about their reproductive decisions, and *LifeChoices* is the inspired and inspiring result. The brainchild of Asst. Prof. of Theatre Janet Wilson and theater artist Jessica Flowers, the show was nine months in the making. After the interviews were transcribed, the interviewers shaped the stories into performance pieces, under the direction of Wilson and Flowers.

The play consists of 18 scenes, each using different theatrical devices, in the manner of *The Vagina Monologues*. The realism was striking—the actors spoke from the heart both as the interviewees and as themselves. The topics are as varied as were the ways they were presented. “Lenny” talks about her five pregnancies in five years. She gave birth to three children

and had one abortion and one miscarriage before she and her husband opted for a vasectomy. Her matter-of-fact way of explaining this and her cheerful acceptance of these experiences are quite remarkable. In another scene, a lesbian couple use alternative insemination. A Roman Catholic unwed teen mother puts up her child for adoption, while another unwed teen, who was an active drug user, decides to keep her baby and turns her life around. “Jane” joyously acts as a surrogate mother for gay couples who want children. “Anna” and “Bob” speak passionately about their agonizing process of deciding to give birth to a boy who had Down syndrome.



LifeChoices Ensemble

women who volunteered their stories. They explained the lessons they learned about how reproductive choices affect women's whole lives—body, mind, and spirit.

Afterwards, the ensemble invited the audience to respond to the play, the actors, and the issues. These audience reflections were as poignant and moving as the play itself. This is a crucial component of the performance that empowers the audience to bring their own ideas and feelings to voice, adding freshness, immediacy, and another layer of truth.

LifeChoices embodies feminist praxis without being didactic. The process was collaborative from beginning to end. Women were in complete control of the way women were represented, and as a result the emotional, spiritual, intellectual, and physical aspects of the experience were integrated in a way that characterizes truthful women-centered discourse and action. The rich experiences of ordinary women are all around us, waiting to be tapped. We are so fortunate to have at Illinois State University women with the feminist ideas, talents, and skills to tap these experiences and produce such a powerful and absorbing performance piece. ♀



Janet Wilson and Judith Arcana

Student News

Aisha Ibrahim presented “Working with Trauma and Testimony” a panel at the Conference on Women’s Issues and Globalization: Education’s Responsibility in Ensuring Rights and Progress at Truman College, Chicago, February 2006.

Jeris Livengood presented “ ‘Let Me Light a Cigar, Would You?’: The Emasculated Male in Edith Wharton *The House of Mirth*” and “The Molestation of Henry Fleming: The Chase for Manhood in a Warfare Society” at the 14th Annual American Men’s Studies Association conference at Eastern Michigan University. ♀

Congratulations, Graduates!

WS Minor Students:

Drew Anastasia, Sociology
Lisa Berube, Psychology
Jamie (Berry) Champion, Family and Consumer Science
Jessica Lensink, Public Relations
Kathleen McGuire, Psychology
Sarah Vogler, Sociology

WS Graduate Certificate Students:

Aisha Ibrahim, English
Devona Mallory, English
Laura Meador, English

Welcome, Newcomers!

WS Minor students:

Kathryn Schumpert, Mass Communications
Eva Trampka, Psychology
Alex Turner, Politics and Government
Kellen Vail, Psychology
Christina Westendorf, Psychology

Graduate Certificate students:

Ricia Chansky, English
Delphine Fongang, English
Teri Hammer, History

FMLA Receives Organization Award

By Brandy Peak

On April 23, the Dean of Students Office hosted the 11th Annual Leadership Recognition Ceremony in the Prairie Room of the Bone Student Center. The Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance (FMLA) was chosen as the recipient of the 2005-2006 Small Registered Student Organization of the Year Award. Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance board member Brandy Peak and fiscal agent Ginny Riggins attended the ceremony and accepted the award on behalf of the group.

The Small Registered Student Organization of the Year Award was created to acknowledge significant contributions student organizations make to Illinois State University. Various factors are taken into account when considering an award recipient. The FMLA was specifically honored for annual programs such as *The Vagina Monologues*, Take Back the Night, and the Clothesline Project. ♀

Feminist Book Club Completes First Year

By Shushan Avagyan

The ISU Feminist Book Club, founded in August 2005 by graduate Women’s Studies Certificate students and English doctoral candidates Shushan Avagyan and Devona Mallory, was initiated to explore feminist literatures from across the world. The club’s goal is to create an interdisciplinary community of individuals who are interested in bridging the various aspects of feminist cultures, traditions, and histories. This year we read Alice Walker’s novel *The Temple of My Familiar*, studied Frida Kahlo’s paintings, and watched Julie Dash’s *Daughters of the Dust* to understand some of the intertextual complexities of magical realism and how it is used to carve specific feminist statements by various artists. We also read some of Anna Akhmatova’s poems in conjunction with Sylvia Plath’s *The Bell Jar*, and tried to map out the structures that may have had similar methods to entrap, silence, and punish women poets in the 1930s and 1940s. Finally, we viewed Third-Wave lesbian filmmaker Sadie Benning’s experimental short films. Find out more about the Club’s upcoming schedule from the Women’s Studies website and join us! Our next tentative meeting date is Monday, August 21 at The Coffeehouse. ♀



2005-2006 Luellen Laurenti award winner Jennifer Marilyn MacPherson (left) with presenter Carol Reitan



Ann Haugo, Cassidy Browning, and Drew Anastasia at the Symposium.

Faculty Accomplishments

Lee Brasseur presented “Is Game-Based Learning Still Designed for Men?” at the Association of Teachers of Technical Writing Conference in Chicago.

Sara Cole and **Karen Pfoft** were faculty co-sponsors of FMLA, which won the Small RSO of the Year award.

Cynthia Huff presented “Archival Diaries, Women, and the Narrative Construction of Family” at the 18th- and 19th-Century British Women Writer’s Conference, March 23-26 in Gainesville, FL.

Marjorie A. Jones advised the paper “Use of iLAP Plates as a New Rapid Screening Method for the Evaluation of Various Human Recombinant Coproporphyrinogen Oxidase Mutants with Wider Possible Applications” for authors J. R. Stephenson, J. B. Morgenthaler, C. L. Cooper, J. A. Stacey, S. J. Gitter, J. M. Eliz. The paper was published in the *Journal of Young Investigators* (<http://www.jyi.org>). Dr. Jones also received several grants, including a travel grant to support her trip to the international meeting of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in San Francisco, a grant to support summer graduate research assistants, and a summer faculty fellowship. She also received the Faculty Dorm Mentor of the Year Award for 2005-06.

Jan Neileub co-authored a grant for the Illinois State Writing Project with Jim Meyer, Claire Lamonica, and Trinity Lutheran teacher Janice Wirsing. Sponsored by the National Writing Project, the grant was renewed for \$48,000 and benefits teachers in the Peoria and Illinois State University communities.

Paula Ressler has been asked to serve as a Cosponsored Speaker of the National Council of Teachers of English, endorsed by NCTE to speak nationally on LGBT issues in education, such as creating safe schools and queer-friendly writing classrooms; and to present learning-through-drama workshops for teachers and students on such themes as LGBT-inclusive curriculum and gay marriage. She is the Chair of the NCTE Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues in Academic Studies Advisory Committee.

Julie Webber presented “Militarized Subjectivity: A New Iteration” for the panel “The Others of Brothers: Rogues, Democracy and the International” at the International Studies Association Conference in San Diego. Dr. Webber also received the 2006 Outstanding Professor Award from Pi Sigma Alpha, a National Political Science Honorary Society.

Kirsten Zona received the Stover Award for “Riptide,” best poem published during the year from *The Southwest Review*. She was also nominated for the *Best Emerging Poets Anthology 2007*, University of Virginia Press. She published “Jorie Graham and American Poetry” in *Contemporary Literature* 46:4 (Winter 2005): 667-687.

Dr. Jung Snags Book Award



Dr. Julie Jung, Assistant Professor of English, has been awarded the prestigious W. Ross Winterowd Award for the most outstanding book in composition theory for her *Revisionary Rhetoric, Feminist Pedagogy, and Multigenre Texts*, Southern Illinois University Press, 2005. The award was presented by the Association of Teachers of

Advanced Composition at the Conference on College Composition and Communication on March 24. “This is indeed a huge honor,” said Dean Olson, at the award ceremony in Chicago. “With this award, Professor Jung joins a pantheon of eminent scholars who have won the Winterowd Award such as James Berlin, Sharon Crowley, Lester Faigley, Susan Miller, Jasper Neel, and Susan Wells. Clearly, she is in very good company.” ♀

Dr. op de Beeck Article Wins Distinction



The Children’s Literature Association, an organization with members from almost 20 countries, has awarded Nathalie op de Beeck, Assistant Professor of English, with its Children’s Literature Associate Article Award. This award annually recognizes the best literary-criticism article published in English about children’s literature. Dr. op de

Beeck won the Children’s Literature Association Article Award for “The First Picture Book for Modern Children: Mary Liddell’s *Little Machinery* and the Fairy Tale of Modernity,” originally published in the scholarly journal *Children’s Literature*. ♀

Women’s Studies Symposium



Dr. Andrea Smith

This year the Symposium featured Dr. Andrea Smith, Oklahoma Cherokee historian, who critiqued reproductive politics, focusing on sterilization and birth control, and arguing that organizations like Planned Parenthood and NARAL work with racist assumptions. Student presentations were richly diverse, with topics including racist sterilization policies, transgender

identities, feminist autobiographies, and the phenomenon of “cuteness” in Japanese culture. The complete symposium papers will be published by August, and will be available at the WS program office. ♀

Fall 2006 Required Courses

WS 120	Women, Gender, and Society	TR 9:35-10:50am
Sec. 1		
Sec. 2	Women, Gender, and Society	MWF 10-10:50am
Sec. 3	Women, Gender, and Society	TR 12:35-1:50pm
ENG 120	Women in Literature	TR 2:00-3:15pm
PHI 246	Feminist Political Philosophy	MW 3:00-4:15pm
WS 390	Interdisciplinary Research	ARRANGE
WS 398	Professional Practice	ARRANGE
WS 400	Independent Study	ARRANGE

Fall 2006 Elective Courses

C/E/F 128	Gender in the Humanities	MWF 10:00-10:50am
Sec. 1		
Sec. 2	Gender in the Humanities	MWF 12-12:50pm
Sec. 3	Gender in the Humanities	MW 3:00-4:15pm
Sec. 4	Gender in the Humanities	TR 12:35-2:00pm
Sec. 5	Gender in the Humanities	MWF 2-2:50pm
ENG/FOR 206	Women of Asia, Latin America, and Africa	MWF 1:00-1:50pm
CJS 339	Women in Criminal Justice	TR 12:35-1:50pm
CJS 339	Women in Criminal Justice	TR 2:00-3:15pm
ENG 260	History of Lit. by Women	TR 2:00-3:15pm
ENG 261	Women's Lit. Global	TR 8:00-9:15am
ENG 360	Studies in Women and Lit	TR 9:35-10:50am
F/H/S 112	American Family	MWF 9-9:50
Sec. 1 & 2		
Sec. 3	American Family	TR 9:35-10:50am
Sec. 4	American Family	MWF 10-10:50am
Sec. 5	American Family	TR 12:35-1:50pm
Sec. 6	American Family	TR 3:35-4:50pm
Sec. 7	American Family	MW 4:00-5:15pm
Sec. 8	American Family	W 5:30-8:20pm
POL 225	Women in Politics	TR 12:35-1:50pm
Sec. 1		
Sec. 2	Women in Politics	TR 2:00-3:15pm
PSY 123	Human Sexuality	MWF 2-2:50pm
SOC 469	Seminar in Sociology	T 5:30-8:20pm

WS 398 Internship an Enriching Experience

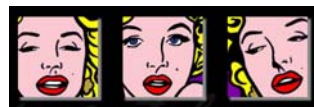
By Sarah Vogler

Being an intern at Planned Parenthood of East Central Illinois has been one of the best experiences of my college career at Illinois State University. I am a graduating senior majoring in Sociology, minoring in Women's Studies, and I have been interning under Shireen Schrock, the Education Programs Coordinator, since January.

One of my main duties at PPECI consisted of helping Shireen with the Teen Awareness Group (TAG) that meets every Thursday night. This is a group of teenagers who attend high schools in the Bloomington area that work for PPECI as peer educators. They are trained on topics such as sexually transmitted infections, contraception, relationships, self-esteem, etc. They then serve as listeners and "advice-givers" for their peers. Some of my other tasks included accompanying and helping Shireen at presentations about sexually transmitted infections and contraception. We presented to Human Sexuality classes at ISU, Chestnut Health Systems, and McLean County Youth Build.

I am very thankful for the opportunity I have had to work at PPECI and I am saddened that my time here in Bloomington/Normal is rapidly drawing to a close. After graduation I hope to continue my support and involvement with Planned Parenthood by volunteering at the Planned Parenthood Heart of Illinois in Peoria while continuing my job search. I am proud to be a part of an organization that so fully supports and embraces women's choices. ♀

Illinois State University's
Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance
&
Planned Parenthood of
East Central Illinois Present:



Sex and the Summer

Wednesday, May 3rd
10:00am-3:00pm on the Quad

SUMMER COURSE OFFERING WS 120 Women, Gender, and Society



July 17-August 10
MTWR 1:25 p.m.-4:15 p.m.
Fairchild 311
Instructor: Shelley DeBlassis

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

Save the Date!

The National Women's Music Festival will be held
July 6-9, 2006
on the campus of Illinois State University
Watch for updates on the website www.WIAonline.org



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