



Women's Studies Launches Five-Year Planning Process

By Alison Bailey

Thirty-five women's studies affiliated faculty, students, and community members met on September 15 to discuss the future of the Women's Studies Program at Illinois State University. The retreat was the first phase in a four-phased process designed to move the program forward in line with the College of Arts and Sciences Five-Year Strategic Plan. It was probably the first time that so many people affiliated with the program gathered together to talk candidly about the program. Participants expressed their delight in seeing so many feminist faculty together, and in being introduced to many people they had not met. Those who were unable to attend contributed by completing a questionnaire and attending one of three lunch-time focus groups.

The retreat was facilitated by Julie Hile of The Hile Group, a local performance consultancy firm that specializes in building nontraditional working alliances in industry and in higher education. The Women's Studies Program is extremely grateful to Julie for donating her time and services to the program. We also appreciate the positive attitude and the playful energy she brought to our process that afternoon. It was time well spent and it passed quickly!

Phase One began with an honest discussion of where we are, and of our frustrations, challenges, and hopes. Kim Stone (English) described the current program as "tentatively fabulous," and most people agreed. There is a great deal we are doing right.

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We offer a minor and graduate certificate. We support student activism on campus. Our courses and programming are more multicultural than most others on campus. We run a successful annual student research symposium. We administer the Luellen Laurenti and Dorothy E. Lee scholarships. We are expanding our affiliated faculty base and graduate program.

We *are* fabulous, but we could be *more* fabulous. We need a makeover of spa-sized proportions. As a small underfunded program, most of our resources are regularly channeled into staffing our feeder course (WS 120) and into extracurricular programming. Like most women, the Women's Studies Program has taken the time to care for others, and needs to do more to care for itself.

Retreat participants suggested that we begin to think about organizing opportunities for collaborative research among affiliated faculty. It was also suggested that our program be more open to GLBTQ studies, that we be less Americanist and have a stronger global focus. In addition we raised and began to wrestle with some pretty honest and difficult questions. Is our program's curriculum dated? Does the name "Women's Studies" still reflect our goals? How many branches of feminist politics are represented in the program? What is the appropriate balance between activism and academics? Does the program know what affiliated faculty are doing, and vice versa? How do we create one cohesive faculty? Is there a disjuncture between what we teach and what our students need? How can we increase our visibility on campus and in the community? How do we and could we support women faculty on campus? Does the fact that Women's Studies is housed in the College of Arts and Sciences make it difficult to work with faculty and to reach out to potential students and

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faculty allies in other colleges? There seem to be many people on campus and in the community that want to get involved, but just are unclear about how they can participate!

During the second phase of our planning process we will engage some of our questions and comments from last time in more depth. We'll look for points of congruence and tension. We'll start thinking about our priorities and directions in ways that reflect the realities of what is actually possible to do. As part of this process we have started a discussion listserv—ws5yrplan-L.ilstu.edu—which should be up and running soon, at which time e-mail list instructions will be sent to interested faculty and students. By the end of the year we expect participants and the administration to have completed our plan, filed our report, and determined who will be doing what to implement the plan.

Thanks to all of you who have demonstrated your support for the program by attending our retreat or focus groups. We are getting very helpful feedback. I hope that all of you can join us on Thursday, November 10 from 2-5 p.m. in the Professional Development Building, room 113-114, for Phase Two of our planning process. This time we hope more undergraduate and graduate students will join us. We promise to provide coffee and more chocolate! ♀

Dr. Bailey and Dr. Chase Lead Women's Studies Program

By Amanda Hanson

This summer Dean Gary A. Olson of the College of Arts and Sciences appointed Dr. Alison Bailey as the new director of the Women's Studies Program. Olson voiced the College's support for Dr. Bailey. "We are really delighted that she will be the permanent director. She has brought a lot of new initiatives to the Women's Studies Program. She will really move the program forward; she has brought a lot of energy to the program," he said.

The College has been very supportive of the Women's Studies Program, according to Dean Olson. "The College of Arts and Sciences is deeply committed to the Women's Studies Program and that is why we have committed extra resources for programs and operations to help the program move forward," he said.

Olson's appointment of Dr. Bailey is just the first step in a series of changes for the program. In addition to Bailey, Dr. Becca Chase will be joining the program from the English Department. Last year Dr. Chase served as Acting Assistant Director, and this year joins the program permanently in that position. This is the second faculty line for women's studies! Olson said he is equally pleased with the selection of Dr. Chase.

"She brings a lot of good ideas and history to the program," Olson said.

When asked about her vision for the future of the program, Dr. Bailey made it clear that she wants student ideas, interests and needs, shape the direction of the program. "I have some ideas but I would rather hear others' ideas first. It is really important that students have a voice here. I really want to make student concerns central to this discussion," she said. "When you have a new director, it is a good opportunity to start a new conversation about where the program has been and where it is going."

Retreats, conferences, and social events are ways to bring together people to generate ideas. Dr. Bailey also plans to work closely with members of Illinois State's Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance (FMLA) faculty members, sororities, and other interested community members. To this end she is planning a series of retreats to put together a five-year plan for the program. "When students leave ISU, I am hoping they have good memories of the Women's Studies Program," Dr. Bailey said, "and having them as part of the planning process will facilitate this."

The Women's Studies Resource Library, located in the Women's Studies Program Office, has been transformed into a comfortable, welcoming room for meeting, studying, or relaxing. It is a tangible sign of how Women's Studies has expanded to cater to students' needs by providing computers, printer, and space to work collaboratively. Couches complete the library's new look and atmosphere. The FMLA office adjoins the library.

Over the years, the Women's Studies Program has become more global. Dr. Bailey credited former director Valentine Moghadam with working to broaden the program's scope. However, Dr. Bailey said the program still needs to become more diverse. One of her goals is to reach out more to students of color on campus.

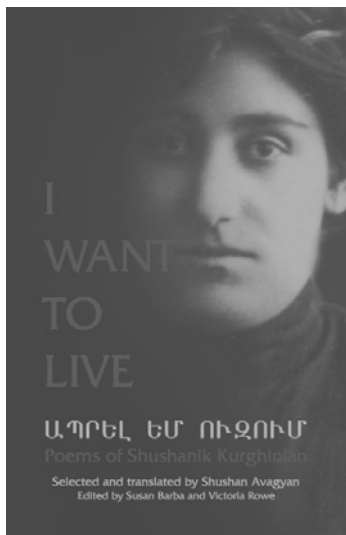
Dr. Bailey said she hopes both students and faculty will notice that Women's Studies is more visible on campus: "I hope [the faculty] would really want to get involved. This program depends a lot on volunteers."

In addition to running the program, Dr. Bailey, who has been at Illinois State since 1993 in the Philosophy Department, is working on a number of projects, including a co-edited reader in feminist philosophy for McGraw-Hill and a special issue of *Hypatia* on race and reproduction. Dr. Chase, a member of the English faculty since 2000, specializes in autobiography as literature, research method, and pedagogy. She has several research projects in process, including articles on autobiography, a co-authored book on teaching English in inclusive settings, and an article about a cooperating teacher orientation program she co-directed. ♀

Graduate Student Publishes Armenian Poet in Translation

By Becca Chase

Shushan Avagyan, doctoral candidate in English, recipient of the Illinois State University Center for Book Culture fellowship and Women's Studies graduate certificate student, has just published *I Want to Live: Poems of Shushanik Kurghinian* (AIWA 2005). Shushanik Kurghinian (1876-1927), one of the most catalytic and radical figures of Armenian literature, lived in exile in Russia for most of her life and wrote about working-class and socially outcast women.



I Want to Live is a collection of 40 selected poems, many of which were censored during her life for their anti-tsarist and revolutionary content. This is the first systematic effort to translate and compile a number of Kurghinian's poems written between 1905 and 1922. The poems appear both in the original Armenian and in English.

“Kurghinian was one of the foremost writers of Eastern Armenia . . . Have you read anyone else who has

the beauty of her style, her anger, and her persistence, her desire to write, to never stop, her deep belief and confidence in the power of her own art?”, wrote Marc Nichanian, Associate Professor of Armenian Studies at Columbia University.

Diana Der-Hovanessian, translator and author of *The Other Voice, Armenian Women's Poetry through the Ages*, praised Avagyan's work: “Shushanik Kurghinian is one of the most compassionate, civic-minded and socially conscious voices in Armenian poetry. Thanks to Shushan Avagyan's devotion and talent a large sampling of Kurghinian's work is available here for the first time.”

The following verse from the book's title poem is one of Ms. Avagyan's favorites, and highlights Khurghinian's feminism:

I want to fight, first as your rival,
standing against you with an old vengeance,
that absurdly and without mercy you
turned me into a vassal through love and force
Then after clearing these issues of my sex
I want to fight against the agonies of life
courageously like you, holding your hand,
together facing this struggle of being or not . . .

Ms. Avagyan will present her book on December 11 at the opening of an exhibit about Khurghinian that she helped organize at the Armenian Cultural Center in Arlington, Massachusetts. She will also do a reading at the Cornelia Street Café in New York City for the GARTAL Armenian literary reading series. ♀

Welcome to Our New Women's Studies Students!

Women's Studies Minors

Nicole Bussell—General Studies
Jonathan Crowley—Communication Studies
Lauren Kruzil—Public Relations
Shauna Jackson—Mass Communication
Bridget McKenna—General Studies
Katelyn Wood—Communications

Graduate Certificate Students

Evelyn Beasley-Scott—Sociology/Anthropology
Stephanie Braun—History
Shelly De Blasis—English
Nida Kazim—Technology
Stephanie Lovelass—English
Fatehmeh Masjedi—Politics and Government
Ryan Rademacher—English
Kate Smith—Theatre

Congratulations, Graduate!

Best wishes to Christine (Esposito) Kirk—Management, who completed her minor in May 2005, but whom we didn't mention in the April '05 *Voice*.

Join the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance!

The Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance is the student organization associated with the Feminist Majority Foundation. If you are interested in being a part of one of the most dynamic groups on campus, please e-mail the FMLA at isufeminists@feminists.org. The group meets every other Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. in Stevenson 401. The FMLA needs to fill two positions on its executive board: web person/historian and equality chair. For a more complete schedule of events and meeting times, visit www.lilt.ilstu.edu/fmla.

ISU Alumna Brings a Harvest of Change to Community

By Amanda Hanson

With land development and urban sprawl on the rise, thousands of acres of American farmland disappear every year, never to return to agricultural use again. Central Illinois is no exception. So when a 23-acre parcel of farmland near Congerville, IL, was about to be sold for development, concerned members of the community banded together to form The Land Connection. Terra Brockman (B.S., Biological Sciences; M.A., English Studies), is one of the founding members of this nonprofit organization. "If we want great food and family farms in the future, we are going to need farmland," Brockman explained. The group raised over \$100,000 to purchase the land in 2001. This plot is used as a demonstration farm where pigs, hens, chickens, and turkeys are raised and vegetables are grown. The farm is completely organic, using no synthetic chemicals. Instead, the natural wastes of the animals are used to fertilize the land. "It is healthier for the plants, for animals that eat the food, and for humans who eat the plants and animals," said Brockman. "It is healthier for the ecosystem."

Since then, the Land Connection has purchased two other parcels of farmland, which are available to individuals interested in getting started as organic farmers. It uses that land to help train new farmers through "Farm Beginnings," a new University of Illinois course (www.farmbeginnings.uiuc.edu). The Land Connection also sells fresh eggs produced by the demonstration farm's hens, and connects local organic farmers and consumers through Farm Direct (www.illinoisfarmdirect.org/).



Terra Brockman points out that women are vital to agriculture. "Without the woman, the place would not run. You need all hands on deck," Brockman explained, referring to farming as "very much a family affair." As a woman in the community who has sparked positive social change, Brockman offered advice to others who aspire to do the same. "Just jump in and do it—and persevere. Find something you care about and

get involved," she said. Brockman also stressed the importance of finding support by forming organized groups of like-minded individuals.

The Land Connection encourages Illinois State Women's Studies students who are interested in completing an internship or independent research with the group to visit their website (www.thelandconnection.org). ♀

Feminist Philosophers Meet At Illinois State

By Alison Bailey

The Midwest Society of Women in Philosophy (SWIP) will hold its annual conference November 11-13, on the Illinois State campus in Stevenson 401. The conference is co-sponsored by Women's Studies and the Philosophy Department. SWIP is an interdisciplinary society with a particular emphasis on troubling the discipline of philosophy and the theory/practice dichotomy. The Society has a history of friendly engagement at the intersections of race, class, gender, and sexuality. SWIP provides an opportunity for women students and faculty to present their research in a feminist-friendly environment. This year's theme is "Queering/Engendering Race Theory." For more information on the conference, contact Dr. Alison Bailey at baileya@ilstu.edu.

The Women of Color Caucus is a central part of the SWIP conference, and provides a safe space for women of color to think, discuss, and present papers, video, performance art, and poetry by us and for us, without the mediation of white/Anglo women or men. We have talked about sexuality, language and cultural resistance, colonization, identity, cross-cultural communication, coalition building, and many other topics. We invite you to participate in making this space lively, to bring the problems that concern you and what makes your heart sing. Participating in the Women of Color Caucus does not commit you to participating in the rest of the SWIP conference. For further information, please contact Dr. Maria Lugones at mlugones@binghamton.edu. ♀

Required Undergraduate Courses Spring, 2006

WS120	Women, Gender and Society	TR 9:35-10:50
WS120	Women, Gender and Society	TR 11:00-12:15
WS120	Women, Gender and Society	MW 3-4:15
ENG160	Women in Literature	TR 12:35-1:50
HIS262	History of Women in the United States since 1865	TR 2:00-3:15

Required Graduate Courses, Spring 2006

WS400	Independent Study	Arranged
WS400	Feminist Theories and Methodological Issues	M 5:30-8:20

History 417: Topics in U.S. History— Deviants or Dynamos?

Dr. Kyle Ciani, T 6-9:30

This course offers a historical look at women who challenged the systems they found themselves subjected to and the ways in which communities dealt with their actions.



We will analyze women's changing positions in America from the colonial era through the 20th century. We will focus on issues that raised eyebrows among "respectable" folk, including mixed-race relationships, single pregnancy, lesbian love, and union organizing. Along the way we will meet some liberated daughters, protesting moms, and assertive grandmas. One need not be a historian; all Women's Studies Graduate Certificate students are welcome. ♀

WS 391: Gender, Race, Body, and Knowledge

Dr. Alison Bailey, MW 3-4:30

We will examine the ways in which embodiment and social location shape how we come to know the world, ourselves, and other people. The general purpose of this class is to familiarize students with foundational work done by feminist philosophers and theorists on core questions of race, gender, sexuality, and embodiment. Specifically, we will look at the ways feminist theorists have conceptualized and explained social identity and resistance, and how these explanations shape how we come to (mis)understand the world. Some questions include:

- How do we theorize privilege, oppression and resistance?
- How do race and gender discipline the body?

- How do gender and race discipline desire?
- How can we theorize queer bodies and desire?
- How are masculinity and femininity shaped by race?
- How do these social locations shape knowledge and ignorance?
- How might we reimagine sex, race, and sexuality in ways that are attentive to feminist resistance?

Readings include work by María Lugones, Luce Irigaray, Sandra Bartky, Judith Butler, bell hooks, Catherine MacKinnon, Jessica Benjamin, Lynn Segal, Judith Halbersham, Elizabeth Spelman, Kimberlé Crenshaw, Annette M. Jaimes, Sandra Harding, Linda Martín Alcoff, Susan Bordo, Susan Wendell, Rosi Braidotti, and Mary Daly. ♀

ENG 390: Studies in Women and Literature—"Black" Feminisms

Dr. Kim Stone, W 5:30-8:20

The purpose of this course is to examine the intertwined late 20th-century histories of three kinds of "Black" feminism—African, African-American, and Black British. In our work, we will address four topics:

- What can be considered inaugural moments in the American academy for each of these fields, and what issues and challenges were set forth in these moments?
- Since these inaugural moments, what have been the overriding concerns of theorists of these "Black" feminisms, the social and literary issues that drive the development of each field?
- What are the primary concerns of each of these fields today?
- In what ways do theorists in each of these fields seek to consolidate their work with one another, and in what ways do they seek to maintain distinctive identities?

We will read theoretical articles and books, and histories of each theoretical field. We will engage some of the theoretical ideas in an analysis of a representative novel from each theoretical field. The class can choose which African and African-American novels we will work on together; the Black British novel we will study is Zadie Smith's *White Teeth*.

Theoretical texts may include the work of: Chandra Mohanty, Lourdes Torres and Ann Russo; Mohanty and Jacqui Alexander; Ranu Samantrai; Gloria T. Hull, Patricia Bell Scott, and Barbara Smith; Boyce Davies and Adams Graves; Stephanie Newell; and Joy James and Tracey Denean Sharpley-Whiting. ♀

Beijing +10 Call for Proposals May 14-16, 2006

**The Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel
Pennsylvania State University
University Park, Pennsylvania**

On September 15, 1995 the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women. Now, in collaboration with different educational institutions around the world, the United Nations is sponsoring a series of regional conferences to focus on the status of women since the 1995 conference. The conference for the North American region is co-sponsored by the U.N. Research Institute for Social Development and The Pennsylvania State University Program of Women's Studies.

We invite scholars, activists, NGOs, artists/writers and filmmakers to participate. We encourage a diversity of



perspectives as well as presentation styles. Participants may present their work via academic papers, artistic performances, activist workshops, plenary sessions, and keynote addresses that explore the important issues raised at Beijing ten years after that monumental event. Every effort will be made to have all activities translated into Spanish, English and French.

The Zoller Gallery will be used as an alternative conference site for scheduled performances and a group art exhibition. If you are submitting art work, please include details in your conference proposal exhibition such as dimensions, scale, material, and one to three images (jpgs). You can access gallery information at <http://www.sva.psu.edu/zoller.html>. For more information regarding alternative format possibilities, contact Dr. Stephanie Springgay at sss23@psu.edu.

We invite proposals which focus one or more of the following interdependent themes:

-
- Economic globalization
- Environment, and equality
- Work, health, and welfare
- Citizenship, democracy, and social justice
- Frontline feminisms, violence, and social change

Proposals of no more than 200 words should be e-mailed to womensstudies@psu.edu by October 15. A program committee will review them and make their selection by December 1. Registration packets will be available on-line by November 1 at <http://womensstudies.la.psu.edu/>. Scholarship information will also be available at that time for presenters who do not have institutional support.

For further information call (814) 863-4025, fax (814) 863-3578. ♀

Minority Scholar in Residence Laura Balbuena-Gonzalez



Laura Balbuena-Gonzalez, Peruvian graduate student from the New School of Social Research in New York, was this year's minority scholar in residence during the week of September 25-30. She gave a fascinating lecture on Tuesday, September 27, entitled "Killing Me Softly: Female Agents in Terrorist Organizations," about her research on the Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path). ♀

Faculty Accomplishments

Alison Bailey has just secured a contract with McGraw-Hill for *Feminism and Philosophy: An Introductory Reader*, which she is co-editing with Chris Cuomo (University of Cincinnati).

Sherrilyn M. Billger and Kevin F. Hancock have just published "Mass Layoffs and CEO Turnover" in *Industrial Relations* 44 (3), 463-489. Dr. Billger also presented "Reconstructing School Segregation? On the Efficacy and Equity of Single-Sex Schooling" at the Society of Labor Economists/European Association of Labor Economists joint conference, June 2005. She was named Research Fellow with the Institute for Labor Studies (IZA) in Bonn, Germany.

Dawn Beicher and Kevin Cannon presented "Integrating Gay and Lesbian Issues into the Criminal Justice Curriculum" at the March 2005 meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences.

Maria Canabal published "A faculty collaborative approach to engaged student center teaching and learning" in the *Journal of Student Centered Learning* 2 (2), 103-108. Also, Dr. Canabal was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Direct Selling Education Foundation where she will serve on the Consumer and Community Program Committee and the Strategic Marketing Plan Committee. This summer, she taught a graduate course on "Work and Family" as a visiting professor at the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus.

Sara Cole was re-appointed to continue as the National Delegate of the Illinois Chapter of the Society for Public Health Education. She also published "Health Education Students' Attitudes toward Homosexuals" in the fall 2005 issue of *The Health Educator*.

Linda J. Douglas presented her solo painting exhibition "The Body Re-Imagined" at Chicago's International Museum of Surgical Science. Her artists' books were selected for the following group exhibitions: "Bookmarks III: Infiltrating Kontakt 2005," a European touring exhibit that engages international audiences to encourage appreciation of artwork in book format; "New Editions Books>Old>New>/Digital 2005" at the O'Hanlon Center for the Arts, Mill Valley, California; "To Have and to Hold: Artists' Books," Minneapolis; and "MOBILIVRE-BOOKMOBILE," a year-long exhibition of artist books, 'zines and independent publications touring throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Jeanne Howard moderated the panel "Gay and Lesbian Adoption: A Primer" at the second annual Adoption Policy

Conference at New York Law School in May of this year. Along with Center for Adoption Studies co-director Susan Smith, this summer she also conducted training for child welfare workers across the state on adoption of children in foster care.

Cynthia Huff edited *Women's Life Writing and Imagined Communities* (Routledge, 2005). Included in the anthology is her critical essay "Towards a Geography of Women's Life Writing and Imagined Communities."

Cynthia Kukla was a fellow at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts in Amherst, Virginia from May 16 through May 31. Supported by a grant from the Graduate Office, Dr. Kukla also gave a paper entitled "Meditations on Icons" for a panel at the European art conference "Impact~Kontakt."

Janie Leatherman and Julie Weber just published *Charting Transnational Democracy: Beyond Global Arrogance* (NY: Palgrave, 2005).

Sally Parry was the keynote speaker at "The American Village in a Global Setting: An Interdisciplinary Conference" at St. Cloud State University on October 5. Her address was entitled "'This is America': The Village of Gopher Prairie in War and Peace."

Dr. Martha Bauman Power and colleagues Drs. Eheart, Hopping and Racine received a grant from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation for \$876,310 to establish an Intergenerational Community as Intervention (ICI) as a viable option for addressing complex social challenges. An ICI is an intentional intergenerational neighborhood where some of the residents face a specific, potentially long-term challenge (e.g., abused and neglected children, court-involved youth, pregnant teens, homeless youth) around which the entire neighborhood organizes.

Paula Ressler published an article, "Challenging Normative Sexual and Gender Identity Beliefs through *Romeo and Juliet*," in the September 2005 issue the National Council of Teachers of English publication *English Journal*. She also was the guest presenter at the September 20 joint meeting of FMLA and Hillel. She spoke and led a discussion about the complexities of lesbian Jewish identity.

Maura Toro-Morn has been appointed the new director of the Office of International Studies and Programs Unit for Latin American and Caribbean Studies. ♀

Women's Voice
Illinois State University
Women's Studies Program
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Normal, IL 61790-4260

Women's Studies Calendar

Monday, October 24, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Take Back the Night: March against Sexual Violence.
Program at BSC Ballroom, followed by a march to Wesleyan.

Wednesday, November 2, 12-1 p.m.

Rita Faulkner: "Arab Women in Francophone Novels."
Stevenson 401. Free Pizza.

Wednesday, October 19, 12-1p.m.

Linda Neimann, author of *On the Rails* and *Railroad Voices*:
"Why I Quit the Railroad." Stevenson 401. Free pizza.

Thursday, November 10, 2-5 p.m.

Women's Studies 5-Year Plan Retreat, Phase II.
Professional Development Building 113-114.
Refreshments will be served. Students welcome.
RSVP to Rozel White, rwhite@ilstu.edu, 438-2947.

Friday-Sunday, November 11-13

Society for Women in Philosophy, Midwest fall conference.
Program TBA. Stevenson 401.

For information contact Alison Bailey, baileya@ilstu.edu,
438-2947.

Monday-Wednesday, November 14-16, 6-9 p.m.

Auditions for *The Vagina Monologues*.
Stevenson 401.

Wednesday, November 30, 5-6 p.m.

Women's Mentoring Network holiday/end of the year social.
Student Services Building 375.

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