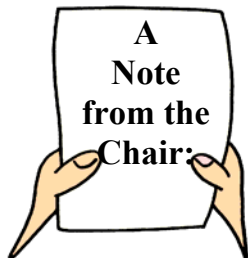


University of Iowa  
Women's Studies  
April 2000

# Newsletter



Being DEO of Women's Studies is coming to have a whole new meaning as we make the transition from Program to Department over the summer. When we come back in August, we will have been magically transformed into a Department, a change that most amazingly required no action on our

part. Accustomed though we feminists are to assuming that every crumb, every inch of progress can only be achieved through enormous struggle, the administration of the College of Liberal Arts concluded without any action on our part that we really are a department and should be treated as such in every official context. American Studies and African-American World Studies will be moving through the same transition with us, while the Comparative Literature Program morphs into the Department of Cinema and Comparative Literature. Clearly, the shape of departments as the repositories of traditional academic disciplines is changing before our eyes.

In some ways, of course, becoming a department won't have very many obvious consequences. When we use up our current stationery we'll replace it with new letterhead, and we can use this as an opportunity to update our business cards. Despite our exalted new title, our operating budget will remain about the same, and our established ways of accomplishing bureaucratic business will not change. But there will be changes, to be sure, some of which will be more cultural than material.

The shift from program to department above all acknowledges that Women's Studies has achieved a permanent place in the liberal arts curriculum that we have long sought to legitimate. While departments are, of course, subject to pressures emanating from state government and the wider economy, they are conceptually more difficult to erase than intrinsically less solid programs. In other words, becoming a department suggests that we belong in the University in a way that makes us much less vulnerable to the winds of fashion than a program might be. How that sense of permanence and legitimacy will affect the way we do our work and plan for the future is anyone's guess.

Becoming a department also may point toward more full-time faculty appointments in the future. Currently, only Jael Silliman holds such an appointment in our department.

While some feminist scholars will probably always want to maintain a foothold in other departments, whether these represent more established disciplines or interdisciplinary areas of study, more and more women's studies specialists see their commitment to feminist research and teaching as best realized in the context of a Women's Studies Department. Even more important, our new status as a department puts to rest the notion that women's studies faculty can only claim respectable academic identities from an affiliation with a "real" department. Affiliations with other departments will be then what they should be—a statement of interests and intellectual commitment, not a plea for acceptance. Women's studies has come a long way over its 26 year history at the University of Iowa!

In line with these welcome developments, we are continuing to grow and diversify. Plans are underway for us to achieve the longtime dream of an undergraduate women's studies major, probably to begin officially in the fall of 2001. We will be welcoming a new cohort of graduate students in the fall, and in line with our commitment to the internationalization of women's studies have confirmed acceptances from students from China, Romania, and Hungary. In terms of faculty, Melissa Deem (Rhetoric) will be joining the core faculty next year and will teach Foundations for Feminist Inquiry II for the next three years. Susan Birrell (Health, Leisure and Sport Studies) will formalize her longtime informal (but very real) membership as a core faculty member. Unfortunately, change also is signaled by loss: Laura Donaldson will be leaving us in the fall for a new position at Cornell University. We all wish her much success in her exciting new appointment. Her years at the University of Iowa should leave her well-prepared for winters that are even more challenging than those in Iowa City. And Jane Desmond has moved her appointment into American Studies on a full-time basis, though she remains, of course, available to Women's Studies students who may wish to work with her.

As many of you know, I've been struggling to develop as a DEO during the past year and as I approach the end of my first year in this position I am beginning, finally, to think I have the concept somewhat under control. Being a DEO is a pretty daunting business. There are more deadlines than I thought could be squeezed into a single year's time. Some of the deadlines concern matters that are of life-and-death concern to students and faculty—scholarships, fellowships, assistantships, salaries, travel grants, and

other matters that are bracketed with dollar signs. Some of the responsibilities have to do with cementing our relations with other departments and with deans and other administrators who have the power to do us good—or ill. All of these are humbling obligations because they have consequences that will surely extend beyond my term as chair and because I don't always have the knowledge to handle them appropriately. I really appreciate all the support faculty, students, and staff have given me this year. I couldn't have managed without all of you, and I will continue to rely on your wisdom and sanity as I plunge into the coming academic year.



*Congratulations!*

**Anne Donadey** The Provost approved her tenure and promotion, subject to Board of Regents approval. She was also selected by the Executive Council of the Modern Language Association to serve on its Ad Hoc Committee on the Professionalization of PhDs, chaired by MLA president (and postcolonial studies scholar) Linda Hutcheon (2000-2002).

**Jael Silliman** was awarded a grant from the Open Society Institute. The 18-month project will include writing the first draft of a book documenting and assessing the strategic opportunities and limitations of identity politics in building the reproductive rights movement, and convening several face to face cross-race dialogues. Her partners on the project are Marlene Fried (Civil Liberties & Public Policy Program at Hampshire College, Amherst, MA) and Loretta Ross (Center for Human Rights Education). The Open Society Institute (OSI) programs focus on correcting the deficiencies of the essentially open society in the United States. The broad aims of the program are to challenge the intrusion of the marketplace into inappropriate areas; to deal with the inequities in distribution of wealth and social benefits that arise from "market fundamentalism;" and to address the adverse unintended consequences of perhaps well-intended policies. Interested persons may find out more about OSI at their website: <http://www.soros.org/usprograms/about.htm>

**Jill Duquaine** Jill received a UI Graduate Teaching Award, with a cash award of \$1000, for her work in the Rhetoric Department. Prof. Mary Trachsel nominated her. The process involved writing an essay detailing her teaching philosophy, training, and methodology, securing letters of recommendation from former students, and obtaining letters of support from her teaching advisor as well as the chair of her department.

## *Scholarships Awarded*

The Women's Studies Program presented three student scholarships at the Celebration of Excellence and Achievement Among Women on March 28, 2000. The **Ada Johnson/Otilia Maria Fernandez** scholarship, a \$1000 award, is given to a woman student of color who has taken courses in the Women's Studies Program or whose academic interests include some aspect of women's culture or experience. This year it was awarded to **Lisa Devine**, a sophomore honors student studying anthropology and Asian languages and literature. Immediately after her high school graduate, Lisa spent a year in China, studying the language and people. After college, she hopes to spend much of her time overseas, mainly in Asia, researching, understanding, and writing about different social systems and the women that live within them.

The **Adele Kimm** scholarship is given to a graduate student involved in the Women's Studies Program through coursework or service. The award of \$1,300 was presented this year to **Fiona Young**, a second-year Women's Studies Ph.D. student. In addition to serving as a TA for Intro to Women's Studies, Fiona works with The University of Iowa Council on the Status of Women, and sits on the Board of Directors for the Emma Goldman Clinic.

This year's recipient of the **Jane A. Weiss Memorial Dissertation Scholarship** is **Jolene Marie Stritecky**, a Ph.D. student in Anthropology. This \$2,000 award is given to a University of Iowa Ph.D. candidate whose dissertation focuses on issues pertaining to women. Jolene's dissertation on "Christianity and Women's Political Activism in Solomon Islands" is a feminist critique of apocalyptic Christian ideologies that justify cutting down old-growth rain forests in Papua New Guinea, where women are responsible for producing food in forest gardens. She is a TA in the Department of Rhetoric, where she integrates critical feminist analyses into her curriculum.

**Congratulations to these fine young women!!**

## *Faculty News*

**Susan Birrell** was invited to Miami University to give a lecture in the Grayson Kirk Distinguished Lecture in International Studies. Her topic was "Claiming Everest: National Identity and Ideology at 29,000 feet." She was on their campus November 2 and 3, 1999. Her article, "Reading Sport Critically: A Methodology for Interrogating Power," written with Mary McDonald, appeared in the latest *Sociology of Sport Journal*. Their book, Reading Sport:

Essays on Power and Representation, is due out from Northeastern University Press this spring.

**Anne Donadey** Anne's book, Recasting Postcolonialism: Women Writing Between Worlds is under contract with Heinemann and will appear in their Studies in African Literature series. Her recent publications include: "'Y'a bon Banania': Ethics and Cultural Criticism in the Colonial Context." French Cultural Studies, Winter 2000; and "The Multilingual Strategies of Postcolonial Literature: Assia Djébar's Algerian Palimpsest." World Literature Today, Winter 2000.

This month she is making two conference presentations: "La littérature de l'immigration est-elle postcoloniale?" at the *Fifty-Third Annual Kentucky Foreign Language Conference* in Lexington, KY; and "Unspeakable Things Spoken: Re-Membering October 17, 1961," *Women in French Conference*, Macalester and Carleton Colleges, Saint Paul, MN.

**Linda Kerber** No Constitutional Right to be Ladies: Women and the Obligations of Citizenship (Hill and Wang) was published in paperback last fall. In January it received two prizes at the American Historical Association's annual meeting: The Joan Kelly Memorial Prize in Women's History [any country] and the Littleton-Griswold Prize for the best book in U.S. legal history. The 5<sup>th</sup> edition of Women's America: Refocusing the Past, co-edited with Jane Sherron De Hart of the University of California, Santa Barbara, has just been published by Oxford University Press. Among the new ingredients are some wonderful photographs (including six generations of Elizabeth Cady Stanton's descendants; Chinese immigrant women at Angel Island, and a previously unpublished photograph of Bella Abzug campaigning). Among the new essays are a new one by Gerda Lerner on the continuing meaning of Seneca Falls, an original essay on Phyllis Schlafly by Catherine Rymph (Iowa PhD 1998, Visiting Assistant Professor, Dept of History), and an original essay on enslaved girls and indentured servants in the early nineteenth century by Sharon Block, whom some of you may remember as a member of the history department faculty 1997-1999.

**Ellen Lewin** Ellen has begun new research on "Fathers Who 'Mother,'" on men who become parents without the involvement of women, i.e., men who adopt alone or with male co-parents. The project extends her longtime interest in people who are unlikely aspirants to the maternal role. This year, with the support of a grant from the University Arts and Humanities Initiative, she's conducted pilot interviews with fathers in Iowa City and San Francisco. She plans to develop the project as a multi-sited one, probably eventually interviewing men in cities in the Midwest and the south in addition to the east and west coasts. She anticipates being able to really dig into this work after her term as DEO ends in 2002.

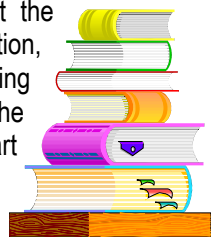
Ellen has also submitted a new co-edited book to the University of Illinois Press. Anthropology Comes Out: Lesbians, Gays, Cultures, co-edited with anthropologist William Leap of American University, brings together a wide range of articles that survey the rise and growing recognition of lesbian/gay anthropology as a specialized field within the larger discipline.

During the past year, Ellen has given presentations in a number of locations on her work on same-sex commitment ceremonies. Last fall, she was one of a small number of non-lawyers on the program at an international conference on domestic partnership policies held at Queens University in Kingston, Ontario. She was also invited to speak about her research at the University of New Mexico and the University of Minnesota. In May, Ellen will be attending a conference at the University of Chicago entitled "Bridging the Gap: Policies on Adoption and Assisted Reproduction," sponsored by the Kellogg Foundation. She just returned from attending the annual meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology, where she participated in a session celebrating the career of feminist medical sociologist Virginia Olesen. Invited presentations on tap for the fall include a session at the American Anthropological Association meetings sponsored by the Committee on the Status of Women in Anthropology (COSWA), a lecture at the University of Illinois, Chicago, and participation in a national conference at the University of Chicago, "The Future of the Queer Past."

**Jael Silliman** Jael was moderator for the session "An Agenda for Change: Combating Violence Against Asian American Women and Asian Women" at the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual National Asian American Conference on Law and Public Policy, *Visions and Voices: New Horizons for the Next Millennium* conference held March 3-4 at Harvard University.

## Student News

**Jillian Duquaine** Jill was part of the New Media Midwest Conference 2000, held March 9-10 at the University of Iowa. Her presentation, "Flexible Learning Environments: Breaking Down the Boundary Between the Classroom and the 'Real World'" was part of the panel entitled "Flexible Learning Environments" which addressed the use of computers in the classroom and how to match technology with teaching practices.



She presented a paper "To Whom We Write: Political Purpose, Rhetoric, and Considerations / Constructions of Audience in Feminist Ethnography" at the "Feminist Transformations: Past, 'Presence,' Futures: Students and

Teachers Learning Together" conference April 8 at San Diego State University.

In addition, Jill was awarded a position as co-leader for the Rhetoric Department's Fall 2000 Professional Development Program. The purpose of this program is to share teaching philosophies and methods in order to train new instructors in the department.

**Elise LoBue** has been awarded a Stanley Fellowship for Summer 2000 to travel to Kazakhstan and assess the current situation of women's non-governmental organization and activism since the break up of the Soviet Union in 1991. Elise left Kazakhstan in 1998, having served in the Peace Corps, and at that time, women's organizations were just beginning to appear. Since then, women's organizations and activism have really picked up. She'll be looking at what kinds of organizations deal with women's issues. These may range from large international agencies starting women's branches, like the United Nations Gender in Development Bureau or local women forming grassroots organizations. She's also curious to learn what kinds of issues women are organizing around - health, legal rights, environment, professional - as well as how the resources targeted toward women by various organizations get dispersed throughout the country and throughout different class, ethnic, religious, etc. groups of women. She plans to leave in May and be in Kazakhstan for two months.

**Fiona Young** will interview State Representative Minnette Doderer for the upcoming Emma's Journal.

## *Fall 2000 Applications*

The Women's Studies Program received 36 applications for admission into the PHD program for the coming fall semester. Twenty-eight applications were received from within the United States, from California to New York, North Carolina to Minnesota. Applications also came from Guam, and from the countries of India, Canada, Hungary, Romania, Russia, and two from PR China. The Women's Studies Program at The University of Iowa is truly developing an international reputation!

## *A Great Year for Guest Speakers*

Women's Studies has had an impressive list of guest speakers so far this year. In November, Rita Arditti spoke on "The Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo and the Disappeared Children of Argentina." Laura Kaplan told us

"The Story of Jane: The Underground Feminist Abortion Service" in January. Gloria Steinem visited the department for a question and answer session during her visit to campus in February (see related article). March saw a visit from Despina Stratigakos and "Taking Berlin: Women Architects and the Construction of a Gendered Wilhelmine City." Galiya Khassonava visited Jael Silliman's *Women's Issues: A Transnational View* class and spoke on current women's issues on Kazakhstan. Sally Kenney finished up the lecture series with "Gender on the Agenda: How the Gender of Judges Becomes a Political Issue." We hope next year will be just as exciting!

## *Gloria Steinem Visit*

The University Lecture Committee brought back feminist activist and author Gloria Steinem to campus this fall. She gave an inspiring and energizing lecture to a packed IMU main lounge audience, in which she displayed the range of issues of concern to feminists: Gay / Lesbian / Bisexual / Transgender rights, the environment, women's right to choose, education and public policy, race issues, and international women's rights. Anne Donadey was honored to have Ms. Steinem visit her feminist theory class, in which she entered in dialogue with students, to the delight of all involved. Thanks to Monisha Shaw of the University Lecture Committee for organizing this visit! The University Lecture Committee is interested in receiving suggestions for future speakers, so do not hesitate to contact Monisha with your ideas.



## *ICSW SPONSORED EVENTS*

The Iowa Commission on the Status of Women announce two important events this spring.

Drake University, the White House Project, and Women's Leadership Fund will host a forum, "**Pipeline to the Future: Young Women and Political Leadership,**" on Wednesday, April 12 from 9-11 a.m. at Sheslow Auditorium, Old Main on the Drake University Campus. The forum will include the release of new survey and focus group data on younger Americans' attitudes toward politics. Following the presentation, a panel and members of the audience will formulate ways to market political leadership

to young women. For more information contact Julie Stauch (515-225-8016).

**Equal Pay Day** On Thursday, May 11, 2000, Iowa and the nation will recognize Equal Pay Day — the day women, on average, will have finally made the same income that men, on average, made in 1999. In other words, it will have taken women just over 16 months to make as much as men did in just 12 months! Across the nation, women earn 74 cents for every dollar earned by men, losing an average of \$140 per week. Women of color fare even worse, making only 64 cents for each men's dollar, or \$192 less per week. The ICSW is a partner with the National Committee on Pay Equity in the 2000 campaign to promote equitable wages for all. Pay equity is a means of eliminating sex and race discrimination in the wage-setting system. Across all job classifications, women earn less on average than men. Also, women and people of color are typically segregated into a small number of jobs such as clerical, service workers, nurse aides, child care workers, and teachers. These jobs have historically been undervalued and continue to be underpaid because of the gender and race of the people who hold them. Pay equity means that the criteria employers use to set wages must be sex- and race-neutral. For information on what you, whether an employer or employee, can do to promote pay equity in your workplace, contact the ICSW at 800/558-4427, 515/281-4461, or [dhr.icsw@dhr.state.ia.us](mailto:dhr.icsw@dhr.state.ia.us).

## Millennium March on Washington

April 30, 2000

The Millennium March on Washington for Equality, scheduled for April 30, will be the fourth national march for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender equality. The purpose of the Millennium March is to energize and galvanize the GLBT and allied communities to work for equality at the local, state and national levels, strengthen the overall movement for GLBT equality and empower and inspire our community for the 2000 elections.

To volunteer or for more information:  
(202) 467-8100, [www.mmow.org](http://www.mmow.org) or  
[MMOW2000@aol.com](mailto:MMOW2000@aol.com)

### International Bazaar Friday, April 14 4:30-8:30 The Art Mission 114 S. Linn

This sale of hundreds of items from throughout the world will benefit the Iowa Women's Foundation. The event is free and open to the public and will feature beautiful items for sale, authentic Indian food, wine, and wonderful company. The Graffiti Theatre has a show later that same evening at Old Brick. Please mark your calendars for an evening of feminist fun!

### Women's Studies Program

*Faculty:*

**Ellen Lewin, Chair**  
**Florence Babb**  
**Susan Birrell**  
**Anne Donadey**  
**Laura Donaldson**  
**Johanna Schoen**  
**Rosemarie Scullion**  
**Jael Silliman**  
**Margery Wolf**

*Staff:*

**Carrie Louvar**  
**Laura Kastens** (newsletter editor)

*Student Journal Entry from  
Introduction to Women's Studies  
Fall 1999*

*By Rachel Schroeder*

I live in thickness everyday,  
and you say that it's not real,  
I am just a girl, fed and white,  
the most lucky of females.

Walking through the malls every day,  
the models I know are all real,  
you say I look just like those girls,  
but that is not what I feel,

My face and legs aren't good enough,  
that woman's breasts are not real,  
I'll believe it when I see it,  
it's my self-esteem you steal,

People tell me that my beauty,  
is not based on material,  
their number doesn't equal to,  
ads for me that are too real,

I know and love the men with me,  
but some things they can't conceal,  
like the way they look at the dolls,  
for me it is very real,

Do not forget me when you say,  
image is immaterial,  
starvation and death my sister,  
if not for you, for me is real.

*April 2000*

*Journal Entry #1  
Student Journal Entry from  
Introduction to Women's Studies  
Spring 2000*

*By Melissa Grothus*

Deciding on a schedule for my second semester of my freshman year was a very difficult process. The classes I had first semester were very basic Science, English, and political courses. The classes had very big lectures twice a week and small discussion section once a week. I found it hard to keep up with the work because the classes weren't interesting to me. I really wanted to get some interesting interactive courses for the next semester. My counselor suggested taking Intro to Women's Studies. She explained that the classes were small discussions that met three times a week and a lecture once a week. I thought that the course sounded interesting and decided to take it.

From the moment that I decided to take the course I was subjected to ridicule not only from my male friends but also from my female friends. I was questioned on why I would want to take this course. I wasn't exactly sure myself. I knew that women's issues were important but I never thought of them very much. I have never exactly felt threatened or discriminated against because I am a woman. I started to have my doubts about the class and was thinking about dropping it. If I dropped it then I wouldn't have to explain to my friends why I was taking the course anymore. I was also scared about the class itself. What if the class was filled with outspoken hippie women? Would I ever get a chance to express my views, being a relatively quiet person?

I completely over-reacted because when I first came into the class it seemed like any other class. My stereotypes of feminist were wrong and everyone seemed great. All seemed to be fine so far, and then we got our reading assignments. When I started to read the stories in the book I got chills. Every reading seemed to relate to me so much. I'm not sure if I can exactly relate with bell hooks but I think I have felt like her at times. I never have had any trouble talking to my mother or sisters but when it comes to talking to a male figure I get nervous and feel I should keep quiet. I believe that *Claiming an Education* by Adrienne Rich should be a story that every woman entering into college should have to read. They story that touched me the most was *Blame it on Feminism* by Susan Faludi. I can recall so many times when I have seen people on TV blaming feminism for problems of the nation. I remember when the Columbine shooting happened and suddenly every working mother was to blame for the deaths that occurred. I heard over and over again that women in the work place is why children become violent. It is almost the country needs someone to blame and they take the easy way out by blaming it on feminism. What strikes me the worst is that these aren't men writing about the negatives of feminism, but these are women. Kay Ebeling said that feminism was "The Great Experiment that Failed." How can any woman say that? I believe that the women's movement has made my life better. If not for it would I be here at The University of Iowa right now writing this paper?

I think this class will impact me more than I would have ever imagined. In the few short days I have been in the class my thoughts of feminism have changed for the better. During the first day of class you asked us if we thought of ourselves as being a feminist. I of course didn't raise my hand. But if you were to ask me the same question today my answer would be different. "YES, I consider myself a feminist."

## KEEP US POSTED

The next Women's Studies Newsletter will be coming out in September, and we want to hear from you. If you have information that you would like to pass on to the UI Women's Studies community, please consider this your invitation to share the news.

**YOUR NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Have you received any honors, made a presentation, or had an article or book published recently?
2. Have you attended any conferences, or do you know of any conferences that may be of interest to Women's Studies?
3. Are there any upcoming Women's Studies events that need to be reported?
4. Do you know about possible fellowships, grants, or employment opportunities?
5. And everything else we forgot to ask you that the Women's Studies community would enjoy knowing about.

**6. In an effort to update our mailing list, please return this form, or drop an e-mail to the address below and tell us if you'd like to remain on the list next year or to please remove your name.**

We know there may not be enough room here to respond, but you can add a page or two and send/fax/email it back to us. Please do! We'd love to hear from you!!!

Our address:

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women-studies@uiowa.edu*





## ***The Eudora Welty Prize***



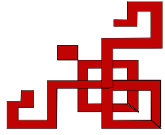
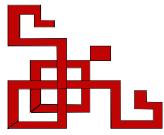
Mississippi University for Women and the University Press of Mississippi announce the annual competition for the Eudora Welty Prize. The Prize consists of a cash award of \$1500 and publication of the winning manuscript by the University Press of Mississippi. Only one manuscript prize will be awarded each year, but all other manuscripts submitted may be considered for publication by the University Press.

Manuscripts must be original works of interpretive scholarship from disciplines within the humanities and related to women's studies, Southern studies, or modern letters. Editions of authors, collections of essays, bibliographies, translations, and unrevised theses or dissertations are not eligible.

Submissions must be unpublished book-length manuscripts (approximately 80,000-100,000 words), written in English, prepared according to *The Chicago Manual of Style*, and complete at the time of submission and not under consideration by any other press.

Submit: two letter-quality copies of the manuscripts; a current cv; return envelope and postage (if sender desires return of the manuscripts)  
*Must be postmarked by May 1*

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**Eudora Welty Prize**  
**The University Press of Mississippi**  
3825 Ridgewood Road  
Jackson, MS 39211  
(601)329-7386



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