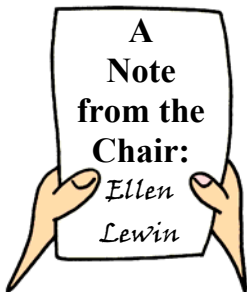


University of Iowa
Women's Studies
September 2000

Newsletter



Moving on up

Last spring, I focused my comments for this column on Women's Studies' change of status from Program to Department, and now that the new academic year has begun, I find I must once again speak about change. Some of the changes that may confront us in the coming year are quite concrete: it is likely that Women's Studies and American Studies will move to a larger block of space on the seventh floor of the Jefferson Building, and that this move will enable us to work under less fragmented physical conditions than have been usual in the past.

But such changes are really only the tangible expression of deeper developments under way in Women's Studies. With the arrival of a new class of graduate students this fall—five now in Iowa City and a sixth to begin in January—the graduate program has begun to have a sense of historical depth and—dare I say it?—"tradition" that we could only fantasize about during the first two years. No longer do we faculty advisers look vague and try to change the subject when asked about how a particular aspect of the program should be accomplished. Now we can actually point to some past experience and draw on historical memory, a state of affairs that makes us feel much more established and "real" than we did when the program began.

Other changes are ahead as well. Margery Wolf, who joined the University fifteen years ago with the charge of building up the Women's Studies Program, will retire at the end of this academic year. Build it up she certainly did: when she first arrived in the tiny offices in EPB Women's Studies then occupied she held the second of two half-time appointments in the program and no degree programs were offered. We now have nine core faculty with appointments ranging from full-time to the inaccurately-named "zero-percent," and we are on our way to enlarging that total through making a number of new hires in the next few years. We have added a PhD program to our undergraduate certificate and by next fall will have established an undergraduate major in women's studies. The new office space on the seventh floor will make coordinating these new programs more manageable and coherent, with space for either private or shared offices for all Women's Studies faculty. Our teaching assistants will benefit from new space as well, as the fifth floor will be dedicated to offices—with real walls—for Women's Studies, American Studies, and some Rhetoric TAs.

Of course, we can't sit back and put our feet up quite yet. Planning for the new BA program remains to be completed this year, and our most senior graduate students still have their comprehensive exams and dissertations ahead of them. Both of these programs will need new course offerings to grow and remain relevant, and our efforts to train women's studies students from around the world will continue to challenge us to think in original ways about "congenial truths." But we think we're on our way. Just as moving will require us to rearrange our possessions when we occupy our new offices, so we should use that time of change to reconsider our priorities and inscribe a new future for Women's Studies at the University of Iowa.

Welcome New Students!

Cynthia Estep has a BA in women's studies and sociology, and a MA in Liberal Studies (women's studies, sociology, and communications). She is interested in the political use of emotions in social movement frames; development and third world; political generations in women's movement and construction of identity boundaries; and mass media and women's movement interaction. In the past she has worked at a homeless shelter for women and families and as an RA and TA throughout her education. A child of a military family, she decided to come to Iowa because of the reputation of the women's studies, writer's workshop and sociology departments. To relax, she is a budding gardener, and loves travel, movies, and the blues.

Yujia Huo comes from Tangshan, Hebei Province, P.R. China, and has a degree from Beijing Language and Culture University. Her interests are in family institution, and management of institutes that provide loans to women scholars and entrepreneurs. She came to Iowa because she heard there was a *wonderful* women's studies program. When not studying, Yujia likes to sit in a bar, sharing nice music, drinks, and conversation with friends.

Bianca Rizzoli comes from Bucharest, Romania. Both her BA and MA degrees are from the University of Bucharest. She is interested in (re)production of gender in 'high' and 'popular' culture, feminist epistemology, feminist pedagogy, women and health, women and creativity, and queer theory. She has published several articles, and a recent translation of Inventing Eastern Europe by L. Wolff. She decided to attend Iowa because it was described as a cosmopolitan university town — which meant that it would have all the advantages of a big city, without its disadvantages. To relax, she listens to music, sings, and paints.

Jessica Share calls Phoenix, AZ and Rocky River, OH her home towns. She has a BA in Women's Studies and History from Arizona State University. Jessica is especially interested in queer theory, particularly of development and of anti-globalization movements, and identity politics. She once worked as a Christmas Elf (no pointy shoes, though!), but more recently worked as a liaison to the eight minority coalitions on the campus of ASU, and in the School of Social Work. Jessica came to Iowa by sheer intuition. She was "excited by so many of the faculty's academic interests, and just got great vibes from everyone I spoke to about Iowa." To have fun, she

watches cheesy movies, plays guitar, hikes, and drinks amazing amount of coffee!

Lynley Shulman is from Jamestown, New York. She received a BA in Women's Studies and Rural Sociology from Cornell University.



Susan Birrell has been appointed the chair of HLSS - Health, Leisure, and Sport Studies. This is a new name for the department formerly known as SHLPS (Sports, Health, Leisure, and Physical Studies). She has a new book, Reading Sport: Critical Essays on Power and Representation, co-authored by Mary

McDonald.

Anne Donadey just published an article, "Portrait of a Maghrebian Feminist as a Young Girl: Fatima Mernissi's Dreams of Trespass" in Edebiyat: The Journal of Middle Eastern literatures (Spring 2000). She was also asked to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee of the Modern Language Association's Executive Council on the Professionalization of PhD's, a national committee that will meet several times between 2000 and 2002 and issue a report with recommendations.

Rosemarie Scullion has just completed a Guest Edited special Issue (co-edited with Van Kelly) of South Central Review entitled: 'Cinema Engagé': French and Francophone Activist Filmmaking". She has contributed an essay to the volume entitled: "On the Waterfront: Class Action and Anti-Colonial Engagements in Paul Carpita's Le Rendez-vous des quais". The issue is due out in early October 2000. In January, Rosemarie began a 4-year term as member of the Modern Language Association's Executive Council after being elected by the MLA's Delegate Assembly to serve as its representative to the Council during the December 1999 convention. She has also been named to the Editorial Board of SubStance: A Review of Theory and Literary Criticism. Rosemarie will serve as the journal's book review editor. Recent conference and panels organized: Invited lecturer at Scripps College, Claremont California: "The Future of Discipline and Punishment: Technology, Panoptism and the Rise of the 'Supermax' Prison in the US." She also presented two papers on cinema in Occupied France, the first at the bi-annual Women in French Conference held at Carlton College entitled "Child Care Anxieties in Jean Stelli's Le Voile Bleu," and the second entitled: "From

Occupied France to Postwar Hollywood: Making and Remaking Family Ideology in Jean Stelli's Le Voile Bleu" at the "International Colloquium on Twentieth-Century French and Francophone Studies" held in March at the University of Pennsylvania. Rosemarie is currently preparing a new interdisciplinary course to be offered in Spring 2001 entitled: "Gender and Sexuality in French Cinema."

Jael Silliman will be making an invited presentation entitled "Family, Community and Identity in a Shifting Diaspora" at an international seminar on "The South Asian Diaspora: Histories, Theories, Texts" in Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Delhi, India this month. She will also be attending the 29th Annual Conference on South Asia in Madison, Wisconsin this October. She is chairing a session entitled "Forms of Dwelling: Sentiment, Civility, and Spatial Practices in India and Pakistan."

Constance Berman's book, The Cistercian Evolution. The Invention of a Religious Order in Twelfth Century Europe (U Penn, 2000) appeared. She also had two articles published -- "The Labors of Hercules, the Cartulary, Church and Abeeey for Nuns of La Cour-Noatre-Dame-de-Michery," *Journal of Medieval History* 26(2000):33-70; and "The Cistercian Mystery. The Invention of Religious Orders by the Cistercians, considered in an Anglo-Norman Context," forthcoming *Haskins Society Journal* 11(2000).

Student News

Fiona Young and Sandy Solis will be hosting a joint panel discussion with Karen Kubby of the Emma Goldman Clinic, October 27 at the University of Wisconsin Women's Studies Conference. The panel is titled: "Actifemics: Transforming Tension into Triumph: Melding Activism, Feminism and Academia."

At the same conference, on October 28, **Jill Duquaine, Jen Getting, Vidya Kalaramadam, Krishna Jukping, Sandy Solis and Fiona Young** will be presenting a roundtable discussion: "Making History: An Interactive Discussion with the Graduate Students of the Women's Studies Ph.D. Program at The University of Iowa."

Women's Studies Fall Lecture Series

- September 21** **RW Connell**
 Ida Beam Visiting Professor
 "Understanding Men: The New International Research on Masculinity"
 4:00 - 5:30 p.m., C125 Pappajohn Business Building
 (Co-sponsored with Sociology)
- September 25** **Izabela Filipiak**
 University of Warsaw (Poland)
 "Transgressions of art and gender in the life of Maria Komornicka (Piotr Wlast)"
 4:00 - 5:30 p.m., 204 Jefferson Building
- October 12** **Molly Ladd-Taylor**
 University of York (Toronto)
 "Eugenics and the Baby Boom: From Coercion to Therapy"
 4:00 - 6:00 p.m., 204 Jefferson Building
 (Co-sponsored by History)
- October 27** **Jacqueline Litt**
 Iowa State University
 "The Social Meanings of Ritalin: Mothers' Perspectives on Attention Deficit Disorder"
 4:00 - 6:00 p.m., 204 Jefferson Building
 (Co-sponsored by Sociology)
- November 3** **Gigi Durham**
 Journalism and Mass Communication
 "Mass Media and the Sexy Girl: Articulating Adolescent Girls' Negotiations of Media Messages About the Body"
 12:00 - 1:30 p.m., 204 Jefferson Building
 Brown Bag Lunch
- November 8** **Rosemarie Scullion**
 Women's Studies / French & Italian
 "On the Waterfront: Class Action and Anti-Colonial Engagement in Paul Capita's *Le Rendezvous des Quais*."
 4:00 - 6:00 p.m., 204 Jefferson Building

Women's Studies Department

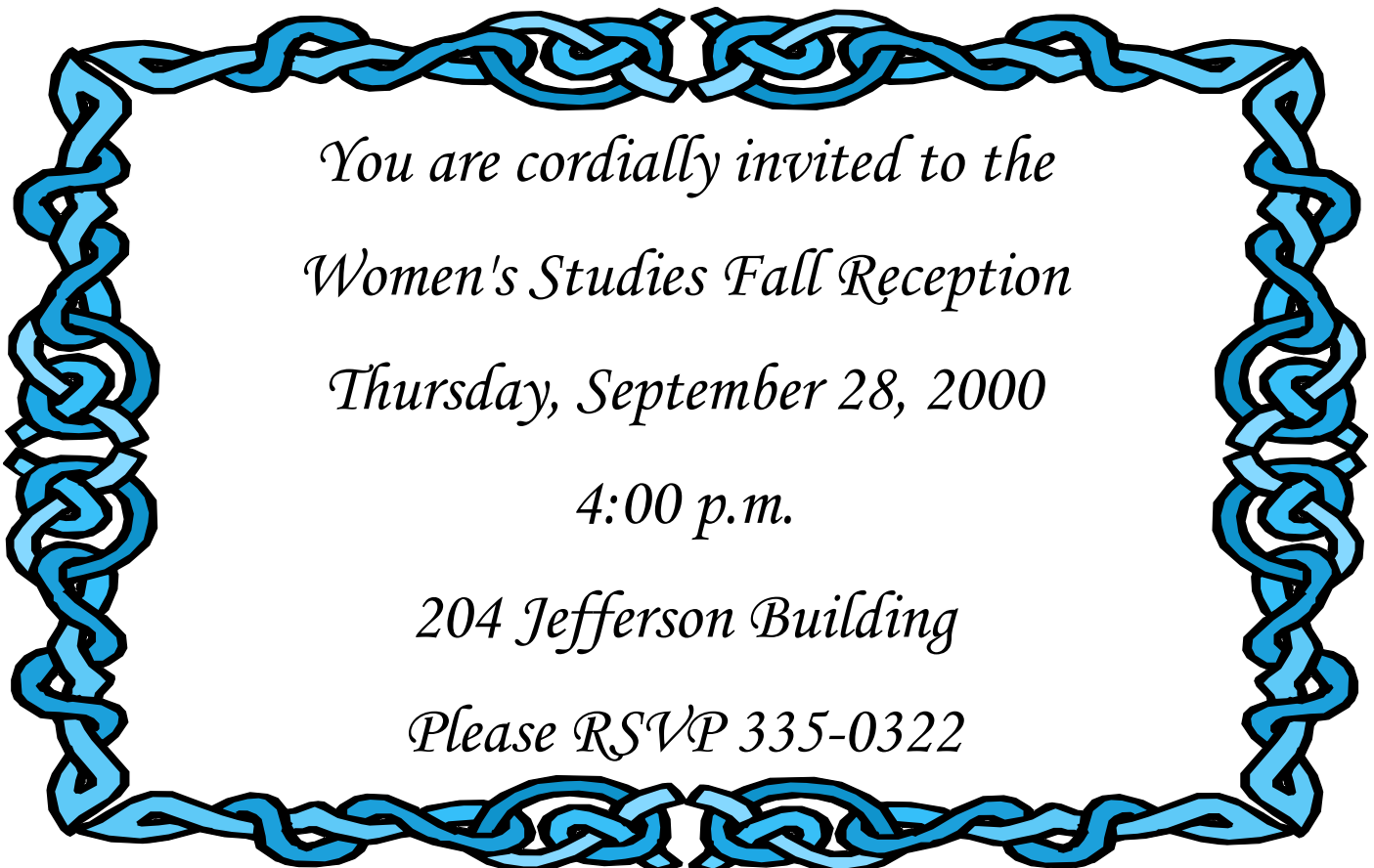
Faculty:

Ellen Lewin, Chair
 Florence Babb
 Melissa Deem
 Anne Donadey
 Johanna Schoen
 Rosemarie Scullion
 Jael Silliman
 Margery Wolf

Staff:

Carrie Louvar
 Laura Kastens
 (newsletter editor)

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*You are cordially invited to the
Women's Studies Fall Reception*

Thursday, September 28, 2000

4:00 p.m.

204 Jefferson Building

Please RSVP 335-0322

*The Women's Studies Department
The University of Iowa
202 Jefferson Building
Iowa City, IA 52242*