

# Women's Voice

Illinois State University

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## From the Director

In November 1997, we planned and hosted a planning meeting with the objective of helping to form a Women's Studies Consortium in the state of Illinois. A number of Women's Studies Programs from various universities sent representatives, and after a lively discussion, the group agreed to hold a conference at Southern Illinois University. The first conference of the Illinois Women's Studies Consortium took place on Saturday, 24 October in Carbondale, under the appropriate theme of "Creating Collaboration and Community". It was hosted by Dr. Beverly Stitt; the director of SIU's Women's Studies Program, and her capable staff. ISU's "delegation" consisted of myself, Dr. Harmon (assistant director), Debbie Peters (teaching assistant), and Patrice Ferguson (student); all of us presented papers. Meridith Kruse, sociology graduate student, attended the conference as well.

The one-day conference began with statements from SIU's Chancellor, Dr. Jo Ann Argersinger, sociologist Dr. Kathryn Ward, and professor emerita Dr. Elizabeth Eames, who discussed her involvement in the U.S. women's movement and her role in the women's studies program at SIU. This was followed by concurrent sessions on such topics of domestic violence; feminist cartoons, feminist literary analysis, women's education, and feminist movements internationally, and experiences in building Women's Studies programs. The lunch hour was an opportunity to sit and talk with faculty and students from various universities, and I learned

much about programs at places such as De Paul, the University of Illinois at Chicago, and Northeastern Illinois University.

We will continue to foster collaboration and community, to build stronger Women's Studies Programs and possibly also to work together on public policy issues. Toward these ends, ISU's Women's Studies Program will once again host a planning meeting of partners, tentatively scheduled for February 1999. ✍



In July of 1998, **Dr. Valentine M. Moghadam**, Director of Women's Studies Program, attended the Annual Conference of the Association of Women of the Mediterranean Region in Italy. Pictured above from left to right: Roni Ben Efrat (Israel), Yana Mintoff-Bland (Malta), Val Moghadam (USA), and Neli Dentcheva (Bulgaria).

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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Fourth Annual Women's Studies Symposium

Women's Studies will sponsor the Fourth Annual Women's Studies Symposium on Saturday, March 27, 1999. We encourage undergraduate and graduate students who are working on papers this semester to consider presenting them at the spring symposium and ask that faculty for whom the papers are prepared to encourage their students to submit proposals.

Undergraduate and graduate students should send a one-page abstract/proposal to Women's Studies Program, Programming Committee, Campus Box 4260. Please include your name, major, student status, the course and instructor for whom the paper was written. The abstract should be detailed, with information on the topic to be discussed, the research question, methodology and sources of data (for social-science papers), and the main arguments.

Proposals may be submitted at any time with a deadline for submission February 22, 1999.

## New Women's Studies Course Offered

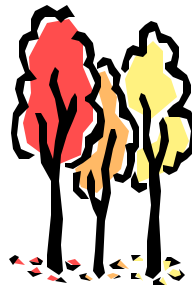
Beginning in Spring 1999, a new course will be offered in the Political Science Department. It is a graduate seminar on Feminist Political Theory (POS 461), which is being taught by Dr. Claire Snyder, Assistant Professor of Political Science. The class meets on Thursdays from 3:00-5:50. The course

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## Women in Science Bill Passes Congress

On October 1<sup>st</sup>, the Senate unanimously approved the H.R. 3007, the Advancement of Women in Science, Engineering, and Technology Development Act. The bill passed the House on September 14<sup>th</sup> and now goes to President Clinton for his signature, which is expected. Introduced by House Technology Subcommittee Chair Connie Morella (R-MD), the bill would establish a commission to study the barriers that women face in science, engineering, and technology. The commission would identify and examine the number of women in these fields to determine the specific areas in which they are underrepresented. The commission would also research and describe the practices of employers regarding the recruitment, retention, and advancement of women in these areas then determine if these practices are comparable to their male counterparts. Finally, within 18 months of appointment, the commission would issue recommendations to the government, academia, and private industry. Along similar lines, President Clinton on September 10<sup>th</sup> directed the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) to develop recommendations within 180 days on how to achieve greater diversity throughout the nation's scientific and technical work force.

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"I'm not afraid of storms, for I'm learning how to sail my ship."

-Louisa May Alcott

Did you know that Women's Studies has a Resource and Documentation Center available to use for your research studies that focus on women's issues? We have a spacious area to sit and study. Photo copy service available. We do not allow materials to be checked out. Call 309/438-2947 for information or hours available.

## Women's Studies Students: News and Profiles

By Sandra Harmon

In this column of *Women's Voice*, we will profile women's studies students and report on their activities, accomplishments and honors. Women's studies students are involved in campus and community life, often in activities where they can apply the skills, knowledge and insights gained from their academic studies.

**This month's profiles are of our two December graduates. Congratulations to both.**

**Molly DiRago**, an anthropology major, is a member of Red Tassel/Mortar Board and on the Dean's List. She has been involved in Women's Coalition activities over the last two and a half years. First as vice president and then president, she took an important role in organizing Take Back the Night events, Clothesline Project displays, weekly and special programs, and fund raising activities. As the current political action committee head and public relations officer, she headed a "Get-Out-the-Vote" campaign and is a frequent spokeswoman for the Coalition. Other campus activities include Campus for Choice and the Change-Not-Charity Food Drive. Because of her leadership role on campus, she was selected to attend Leadershape, an intensive six-day conference in May 1997 to strengthen the leadership and community building skills of the thirty selected students from around the nation. Last summer she was chosen for the highly competitive summer internship program of the Feminist Majority based in Washington, DC. (See *Women's Voice*, August 1998, for Molly's report on her experiences.) Molly's senior thesis in anthropology was a comparative analysis of women's changing roles in Iran and Japan. She presented a paper based on her thesis research at the Third Annual Women's Studies Symposium last March and at the 1998 Undergraduate Research Symposium.

**Jenny Foster**, a sociology major, is an honors student and recipient of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology Kinneman Scholarship for 1997-98. She participated in the study abroad program, spring 1997, studying at the University of Sunderland, Sunderland, England. One of her interests is the sociology of gender. She worked for three semesters with Professor Tom Gerschick researching men and masculinity in sociology courses. They presented their work, "Invisible Men? Men and Masculinity in Undergraduate Gender Courses," at the American Sociological Association National Conference in San Francisco last August. Jenny was selected for the ASA Honors Program, an honor bestowed on only 75 students nationwide. Her paper, "The Civil War Letters of Bathsheba Johnson," appeared in the spring 1997 issue of the history department's student scholarship journal, *Recounting the Past*, and she presented a paper, "The Debate over Women's Ordination: A Rhetorical Analysis," at the 1998 Women's Studies Symposium. She is active with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship on campus, leading Bible studies, mentoring younger women, and organizing the women's ministry. She has accepted a full time position with InterVarsity after graduation. Eventually, she would like to earn a Ph.D. in theology with the goal of teaching.

## Welcome New Women's Studies Minors

**Welcome to these new women's studies minors:**

Patrice Ferguson—Public Realitions  
Michele Ganschow—Psychology  
Michael Reno—English and Philosophy  
Lara Saba—Political Science

As of the end of November, 49 students representing nineteen different majors are Women's Studies minors.

## Faculty News

**Sophia A. McClennen**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Foreign Languages, recently delivered the opening speech at this year's Take Back the Night rally at ISU to over 350 participants. She delivered a lecture at the Border's Conference on "Exile's Time: Myth and History after the Postmodern Turn." She spoke at the Campus Religious Center's Fell Lectures on November 11 on "Caught Between the Virgin Mother and the Sinful Whore: Latin American Women's Body Split." She also organized a panel for the annual Modern Languages Association meeting on Latin American music where she will be giving a lecture on "Woman's Voice in the Transnational Marketplace."

### New Library Acquisitions

The Women's Studies Library has recently acquired many new additions to its library. Here is a sampling of the recent titles, which students are free to come in and use.

*Women in the Third World: An Encyclopedia of Contemporary Issues* - Nelly P. Stromquist.  
*Women of Color Health Data Book* - Office of the Director, National Institutes of Health  
*Illinois State University Diversity Resource Guide Book*  
*Women's Studies Graduates: The First Generation*- Barbara F. Luebke and Mary Ellen Reilly.  
*Contemporary Women's Health: Issues for Today and the Future*- Cheryl A. Kolander, Danny J. Ballard and Cynthia K. Chandler

# Women's Studies Brown Bags Spring 1998

## "Gender Across the Disciplines- Part II"

The Brown Bag series "Gender Across the Disciplines" will continue through February at the Women's Studies offices, Rachel Cooper, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Room 234. Speakers will discuss the integration of women and gender issues in their disciplines and the way they address women and gender issues in their own research and teaching. Please bring a sandwich. We will provide coffee, tea, and juice. For further information, call 438-2947.

**Thursday, January 28—12:00-1:00** Elizabeth Mullinex, Theatre

**Wednesday, February 3—12:00-1:00** Maura Doherty, History

**Wednesday, February 10--12:00-1:00** Lori Heggi, Foreign Languages and Mahide Demirci, English

**Wednesday, February 17—12:00-1:00** Gary Kinchin, Health, Physical Education and Recreation

**TBA** Maria Canabal and Deb Gentry, Family and Consumer Sciences

**If you have a disability and need accommodations, please contact 438-5853.**

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