



Is Student Political Apathy a Thing of the Past?

Alison Bailey, Acting Director

The 2004 campaign for the presidency is finally over. Most people I know were weary of the spin, the recorded phone calls, the mailings, the requests for additional campaign funds, the fear mongering, the endless TV ads, and the repetitious allegations and sound bites from both parties. We wanted it over. We wanted closure.

Whatever else the youth of America are, they were not apathetic during this campaign. Sean Combs's "Vote or Die" T-shirts, MTV's "20 million loud" voter registration campaign, and dozens of clever bumper stickers were everywhere. Mattel even released a presidential Barbie who was billed as the perfect candidate because she had served in the military (but I'm guessing it wasn't in a combat role).

A hopeful electoral mood was palpable on campus. Our faculty watched as students became more involved in the democratic process than had any young voters since the 1972 election. There were voter registration drives, informational panels, parties to watch the debates, discussions on the military draft, and partisan campaigning on the quad.

Almost 1,900 students waited in line at the Bone Student Center to vote. Some waited over two hours. I'm told that students on the Kenyon College campus in Gambier, Ohio waited up to 12 hours to exercise this privilege! The ISU Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance (a nonpartisan women's group on campus) took it upon themselves to go out and buy half-priced Halloween candy and to solicit donations from local eateries. They delivered these treats to students waiting in long lines and encouraged them to stay in line until they had cast their ballots at one of the six polling stations available. Student Government Association members made similar efforts.

So, how did this new generation of voters vote? ISU student Nick Daggars, a college Democrat, compiled the following information using figures from Democracy for America. He reports that 70% of the ISU students registered to vote actually cast ballots on that day. This figure is almost 12 points higher than the national average of all voters. Of the students in Normal District

eight, 67% voted for Kerry/Edwards, and 33% either voted for Bush/Cheney or were undecided. Barack Obama received 80% of the student votes, while 20% either voted for Alan Keyes or for no one at all. 70% of ISU students voted for Tari Renner and the remainder either voted for Jerry Weller or for no one at all.

Nationwide, student-age voters helped the Democrats more than the Republicans. Marjorie Connelly's recent *New York Times* essay "How Americans Voted: A Political Portrait" offers an interesting snapshot of the 2004 voter. Voters between the ages of 18-29 are roughly 17% of the electorate: 54% voted for the Kerry/Edwards ticket and 45% voted for the Bush/Cheney ticket. The Democratic ticket captured 53% of first-time voters' ballots and the Republican ticket 46%.

There was also a strong gendered dimension to the vote. As a rule, women vote more Democratic and men more Republican. The gender gap first attracted the attention of the press in 1980, when men were eight percentage points more likely than women to vote for Reagan. Although Bush seems to have increased the Republican share of women voters this year and narrowed the gap to seven percentage points, Connelly's research suggests that we will continue to see a gender gap across all age groups.

A larger gap exists between married and unmarried voters. Democratic candidates have won the majority of the votes among unmarried men and women voters since 1988. This year unmarried women gave Kerry 62% of their votes.

Students invested a lot of time and energy in this highly contested race, and many classes on the Wednesday following the election were spent discussing the results. Our students wanted to talk. They needed to talk. They told me stories about having registered, only to be given provisional ballots. One woman, who voted off campus, watched as a homeless man and an African-American couple was turned away from the polls. Another student, who knew her rights, insisted on being given a regular ballot when she was offered a provisional one. She got it. The voting process was exciting and empowering for them. They felt as if they were part of an historical event, and they were.

My feminist political theory class met at 3:00 pm. Senator Kerry had conceded the election to Mr. Bush only hours earlier. So, I began the class by
(Continued on Page 2)

Inside This Issue

- 2 GLBT News and Feminist Pedagogy Sessions
 - 3 Professionals Respond to Websites
 - 4 Internship and Classroom Opportunities for Students
 - 5 Women's Studies 10th Annual Symposium Call for Papers
 - 6 Campus and Community Activism
 - 7 Women's Studies Faculty and Staff News
 - 8 FMLA and Upcoming Events
-

Women's Studies Staff

Dr. Val Moghadam	Director – On Leave	438-2947
Dr. Alison Bailey	Acting Director	438-5617
Dr. Becca Chase	Acting Assistant Director/Advisor	438-7361
Ms. Rozel White	Secretary	438-2947
Ms. Bethany Struebing	Graduate Assistant	438-2948
Mr. Ryan Rademacher	Undergraduate Assistant	438-2947

GLBT NEWS AND FEMINIST PEDAGOGY

(From the Director – Continued from Page 1)

asking: "What are your hopes and fears, now that the president has been elected for four more years?" This is what they told me.

"I'm scared that Bush will select conservative judges to serve on the Supreme Court. In particular, I'm afraid that *Roe v. Wade* will be reversed." Me too. The court of Chief Justice William Rehnquist is the longest unchanged court in 190 years and one with the oldest members, with an average age of 70 for the justices. During the next four years we will likely see anywhere from one to four justices stepping down, giving Bush the opportunity to replace them with judges that will shape U.S. constitutional interpretation for decades to come. Of the nine judges, three have solid anti-choice voting records (Scalia, Thomas, and Rehnquist). Similar social issues, such as same-sex marriage and affirmative action, could be revisited if cases of this nature come before a future court. Bush has said since his first campaign for the White House that if and when he gets the chance, he would select high court justices in the mold of his two favorites, Thomas and Scalia. Stevens and O'Connor have solid pro-choice records, but Stevens is 84 and has been treated for cancer. O'Connor is also a breast cancer survivor. The good news is that the president may need bipartisan support to prevent a Senate filibuster against confirmation of his nominees. Next year's 100-member Senate will have 55 Republicans, but may not be enough (60 are needed) to break a stall.

"I'm afraid a Republican Congress will pass the Patriot II act and that my rights will be restricted." They will. The 87-page Domestic Security Enhancement Act of 2003 document (<http://www.pbs.org/how/politics/patriot2-hi.pdf>) does come with restrictions. They are aimed at preventing terrorism, but the definitions of "terrorist" and "terrorism" are so broad that they may cover protest tactics similar to those used by Operation Rescue (blocking clinics, intimidation of doctors and clinic patients), the 1980 Women's Pentagon Action (blocking entrances, defacing property), or protesters at Vieques Island, Puerto Rico (a one year nonviolent protest at U.S. bombing range). In this way, the U.S. government could justify using wiretapping and other electronic surveillance methods (Sections 120 and 121) to monitor the organizers of civil disobedience. The Act allows for the sampling and cataloguing of innocent Americans' genetic information without court order and without consent (Sections 301-306). It allows U.S. citizens' personal credit, education, and visa records to be shared with local and state law enforcement even if this information is irrelevant to terrorist investigations (Section 311). Native-born Americans can be stripped of all of the rights of citizenship if they provide support to unpopular organizations labeled as terrorist by our government, even if they support only the lawful activities of such organizations in the U.S. (Section 501).

Listening to my student's hopes and fears that day was revealing. Although many of them did not get the candidate they wanted, a significant number were educated about the issues and knew what to keep an eye on over the next four years. They were able to share with the class what they knew about Patriot Act II and the Supreme Court. They sometimes disagreed with each other, but they listened carefully and respectfully to what each other had to say. They were not apathetic at all. ■

Illinois State Creates GLBT Student Support Fund (Reprinted from ISU's November 4, 2004 Report)

Gifts to Redefining "Normal" Family Campaign have established a fund to provide emergency grants to students who, due to their sexual orientation, lose the financial support of their families. The GLBT Student Support Fund was established in October 2004 through the efforts of Illinois State's Triangle Association Executive Board. Initial gifts and pledges have put more than \$6,000 in the fund. The Triangle Association Executive Board will oversee the fund, review requests, and make funding decisions in cooperation with the dean of students. For more information on the GLBT Student Support Fund, contact Amy Sajko, director of development for Student Affairs at 309-438-7735. ■

Feminist Pedagogy is Alive and Well at ISU!

Becca Chase, Acting Assistant Director

The Feminist Pedagogy Seminar, co-sponsored by the Women's Studies Program and the Center for Advancement of Teaching, has met twice this semester. More than two dozen graduate students and faculty and two undergraduates have registered. Fifteen people attended the first session on Oct. 1, and six attended the second on Nov. 5.

During the first session the group had a lively discussion exploring a number of topics, including:

- When does a teacher play a dominant role, and when is a teacher over-dominant in the classroom? How can teachers create a collaborative classroom learning environment and empower students while still maintaining leadership of the class?
- How do teachers maintain "safe" classrooms in which constructive criticism and feedback is supportive and has its proper place?
- How do we form communities in which every individual student has a voice and academic freedom?
- How do we teach about categories of privilege and oppression?
- What strategies help students understand cultures, emotions, and ideas more holistically?

The participants decided that in future seminars they would try a case-study approach, sharing and analyzing teaching stories that are centered around a different pedagogical theme each month. The companion text is Berenice Fisher's *No Angel in the Classroom: Teaching through Feminist Discourse* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2002).

In the second session the seminar focused on power and authority. The group discussed how a teacher's race, nationality, gender, and academic status can reinforce or undermine authority. Participants discussed:

- Different kinds of authority; e.g. intellectual or moral authority, credibility or respect as authority, passionate authority.
- The need to establish rules of feminist discourse early in the semester.
- Negotiating authority and power with students.
- Maintaining authority when students are used to transmission modes of learning (lecture and test), while a feminist teacher emphasizes student empowerment and critical thinking.

The final session of the semester will be held on Dec. 2 or 3, place and topic to be determined. For more information, e-mail Becca Chase, rchase@ilstu.edu. ■

GLBT Young Adult Literature Featured

Dr. Paula Ressler, Director of English Education, and Mary McKeeth, a Normal Public Library librarian, gave a workshop on Tuesday, October 25 at the Normal Library on GLBT literature and other resources that are available through the local public libraries and through the Safe Schools Project. They assembled an impressive display of novels, graphic novels, comics, and magazines, along with bibliographies. Dr. Ressler read from Jacqueline Woodson's novel *The House You Pass on the Way* (Puffin, 2003), and displayed Ivan Velez's comics series *Tales of the Closet*, as well as a superheroes series from DC comics with GLBT people of color as major protagonists. Ms. McKeeth described her current new favorites, including *Luna* (author Megan Tingley, 2004), a young adult novel with a transgender character. She noted that GLBT books in the Normal Public Library's collection are regularly checked out, and both presenters as well as audience members emphasized how important it is for teachers to let students know that these books are available. Ressler and McKeeth also displayed a number of good books for younger children, as well.

Dr. Ressler is seeking an assistant for the Safe Schools Project. This assistantship qualifies for WS 398, and also would be appropriate for an internship in counseling or educational administration. For more information contact her by phone at 438-7798 or by e-mail at pressle@ilstu.edu. ■

PROFESSIONALS RESPOND TO WEBSITES

Introduction to the Issues

Alison Bailey

The on-line publications *Booze News* and *ISUskanks.com* have been the topic of discussion all over campus this week. The First Amendment protects the rights of people to say stupid and offensive things, but when these stupid and offensive sites contribute to an on campus climate that degrades women and condones harm to women, the line between free speech and hate speech becomes muddy. Sometimes the cure for bad speech is more speech. In this spirit, I've asked Andy Novinska, from Student Counseling Services, and Alan Markwood, from Chestnut Health Systems, to address the issues raised by these internet sites. ■

Commentary by Andy Novinska

ISU Student Counseling Services

The print and on-line publication *The Booze News* and the on-line publication *ISUskanks* have raised concerns in the Illinois State University community. The *Booze News* promotes itself as "Today's News...Under the Influence" and includes weekly features such as Alcoholoscopes, Drinking Games, and The Bar Grind. A recent feature article entitled "Lady on the Street, but a Freak in the Bed" commented on intoxicated random sex in the following manner: "Sometimes, people make mistakes, and sometimes a girl will wake up on a random futon and wonder how the hell she got there...S*** happens. It's okay to do this. As long as you're not getting an STD, and you're not getting pregnant, then hang that skeleton in your closet, and forget about it".

ISUskanks promotes itself as "Your source for all things slutty" with weekly features such as "The Hotties," "The Bar Grind" and "Faggot of the Week." A recent article called "The Art of Bathroom F***ing" stated: "Speed, agility, mental prowess, and pure force are all key factors...There are not many more degrading things than f***ing a girl in a bathroom, and that is why you must become mentally superior to women if you ever wish to pull a f*** and go".

The actions described in these texts are not okay. For the women, the negative psychological effects can be long-lasting and debilitating. For the men, their actions fit the legal definition of sexual assault. While I cannot say for certain that messages such as those given in these publications lead to violence (direct cause and effect) they do undermine campus-wide attempts to combat alcohol abuse and the violence that often accompanies it. The fall 2004 Campus Crime and Security Report from the Illinois State University Police Department indicated that from July 1, 2003 to April 30, 2004 there were 27 reported events of sexual assault (all male on female). In 19 of the cases survivors reported they had been drinking prior to the assault with seven women suspecting that a date rape drug was utilized.

Unfortunately many ISU students will be assaulted this academic year by persons who utilize "pure force" while others will wake up "on a random futon" with no idea how they got there. Whether by physical or chemical force (alcohol, date rape drugs), victims of sexual assault do not shrug it off as "S*** happens" nor do they "hang that skeleton in (their) closet, and forget about it."

Student Counseling Services is working with other members of the university community to address the message that publications such as these provide, but it is an uphill battle. Hate is often expressed under the banner of "free speech" and often the only direct counter is to utilize your own free speech. Some of these sites accept advertising. Educate business owners who advertise with these sites about how you or your organization/group feels about their supporting publications such as these with their advertising dollars. On an individual level, if you know someone who has been affected by violence, speak out for them; help them find their voice and the resources they need. Placing a call to Illinois States Student Counseling Services at 438-3655 is a good place to start. ■

Commentary by Alan Markwood

Chestnut Health Systems

The *Booze News* sings the praises of heavy drinking and casual sex. No one is compelled to read the paper, so should concerned members of the surrounding community ignore it or actively oppose it? This substance abuse counselor presents the case for actively opposing the publication.

The effects of alcohol or bad journalism on any one person are unpredictable. However, cumulative cultural effects of both on public health are consistent and can be reliably estimated in advance. Most people know that drunk driving substantially increases the likelihood of an accident. As a driver's blood alcohol concentration increases from .07 to .15, the risk of a fatal accident increases by factors of 11, 48, and 380. Alcohol's neurochemical effects can also lead to other accidental injuries such as drowning, fires, burns, child abuse and neglect, suicide, violence, psychoses, acquisition of HIV, and fetal alcohol syndrome.

The September 24th, 2004 edition of *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, published by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, lists 35 chronic conditions and 19 acute conditions (excluding HIV) that result from alcohol abuse. With the exception of motor vehicle injuries and liver disease, alcohol-related homicides account for the most deaths (7,655 in 2001). From a public health standpoint, alcohol is *not* a "soft" drug. It *does* harm people beyond those who abuse it.

What about sexual assault? We need to consider the ethical and legal effects of intoxicated behavior separately from the biochemical and psychological effects. Although many men and women still believe that a woman who drinks with a man is expressing an interest in sex (Antonia Abbey, "Alcohol-Related Sexual Assault: A Common Problem among College Students," *Journal of Studies on Alcohol*, Supplement #14, March, 2002), the current legal position is that drunkenness of an assault victim does not constitute consent. Even so, women should not depend on the law for protection from sexual assault. They should know that a person's capacity to resist sexual assault while drunk will be affected by the equivalent of a temporary chemical lobotomy.

So, what do the harms associated with alcohol abuse have to do with the student-published *Booze News* paper? Most of us like to think that we make rational decisions. In reality, however, we tend to weigh social examples more heavily than logical decisions when making choices. In essence, the truthful answer to, "If all your friends jumped off a bridge, would you follow?" is, "Yes, unless I see them hit the ground." This is the key to substance abuse prevention, because it is a major reason why educational approaches to drug and alcohol abuse are usually ineffective in changing behavior. The powerful effect of perceived peer norms is documented in a number of publications [see Haines and Spear, *Journal of the American College Health Association*, 45 (November, 1997), pp 134-140; Page and Scanlon, *Journal of Child & Adolescent Substance Abuse*, 9(2), 1999, pp 1-12; and Perkins and Crain in a 2001 report by the Higher Education Center for Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention]. These studies demonstrate that one of the strongest contributors to youth substance use is social influence. This is not "peer pressure" as in, "Here, take this," but a more subtle interaction between a perceived peer attitude and a voluntary desire to emulate one's peers. In other words, many people will tend to drink more and pursue more casual and not necessarily consensual sex if they think everybody's doing it. These behaviors are a recipe for a public health disaster.

The creators of *Booze News* claim their publication is all in good fun—it's "typical college life." In the absence of wide opposition, many readers will continue to believe that the lifestyle promoted by the publication is normal and appropriate. Since similar campaigns to normalize healthy behavior have

(Continued on Page 4)

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

(Commentary by Alan Markwood – Continued from Page 3)
been successful in changing behavior, I see no reason to think that this normalization of unhealthy behavior will be successful in preventing that behavior.

The First Amendment protects this kind of speech on the theory that the best remedy for bad ideas is expressing countering ideas, rather than censorship. If the ideas promoted in *Booze News* are not countered, they *will* exert an influence on behavior. The influence on individual behavior may not be measurable, but the impact on the local community is likely to become measurable in terms of an increase in the binge drinking rate and the numbers of sexual assaults. If I'm right, then those who find *Booze News* distressing need to publicly say so. ■

Congratulations and Welcome!

Our hearty congratulations go out to Shushan Avagyan for completing her Women's Studies Graduate Certificate; and to Women's Studies undergraduate minor students who are graduating in December— Lindsay Barnes, Gloria Berry, Joni Cowden, and Brea Moon!

We send a warm welcome to new Women's Studies undergraduate minor students Angeline Anastasia, Lisa Berube, Jordan Bryant, Susan Harsha, Leola Manley, Kathleen McGuire, Jennifer McPherson, Talia Menachem, Amy Shank, Callie Swanlund, and Sarah Vogler! ■

WS 398: Professional Practice Internship

Internship Qualifications

The WS 398 Professional Practice opportunity provides supervised work experience in local, state, national, or international businesses, agencies, institutions, or organizations focusing on women's issues. To be eligible for the internship, students must meet all of the following requirements:

- Must be a Women's Studies minor.
- Must have completed 75 hours of course work (i.e., be at least a second-semester junior).
- Must have completed at least 12 hours of Women's Studies classes.
- Must have a GPA of 3.0 (overall and in minor) or higher at Illinois State University.

McLean County Museum of History

The award-winning McLean County Historical Society and Museum offers both formal (for credit) and informal (no credit) internships to Women's Studies students interested in local history. The museum is involved in a series of on-going projects involving research, exhibition production, working with artifacts, cataloging, and writing. Contact: Mary Ann Schiermen, 309-827-0428.

The Children's Foundation: McLean County Family Visitation Center

The Children's Foundation provides support and referral services to families in crisis. The Foundation offers students many internship opportunities related to the Center and its activities. Some internships include work in the child-care center, crisis nursery, early start program for at-risk parents, foster care, parenting education program, family visitation center, transitional living program for troubled teens, and parenting support groups. All internship programs can be discussed with the director and are based on current needs of the Foundation. Contact: Lesley Frey, 309-834-5233.

Planned Parenthood: McLean County

Planned Parenthood has strong ties to the ISU community through Campus

for Choice. Interns must complete an eight-hour community volunteer training program in outreach education through the organization. Interns then will be involved in fundraising, event planning, public awareness campaigns, and outreach education. Opportunities reflect the current needs of the organization. Contact: Shireen Martin, 309-827-4368.

Stepping Stones: Sexual Assault Awareness Program (YWCA)

This YWCA program is a free and confidential advocacy service for sexual assault survivors and their loved ones. Volunteer advocates are on-call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The advocate's role is to assist survivors and their loved ones through the recovery process by connecting them with local resources and services. Stepping Stones works through PATH to provide counseling, medical, and legal support services for sexual assault survivors. Students are required to attend 40 hours of training, and to carry a pager for the duration of their internship. Contact: Vicki Smith, 309-662-0461 ext. 272.

The Bloomington-Normal Safe Schools Project

The Project is looking for an intern with good interpersonal skills who is interested in education. Interns will help to coordinate educational activities related to making schools safer and more supportive for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth, family members, their friends, and school staff. Activities include: speaking engagements at local businesses; workshops with teachers, parents, and counselors in schools; and assisting ISU teacher education faculty to incorporate issues about sexual orientation and gender identity into their courses. Contact: Paula Ressler, 309-438-7798, pressle@ilstu.edu.

Habitat for Humanity: Gaia Build

Habitat is a nonprofit international ecumenical organization dedicated to the elimination of substandard housing around the world. Habitat homes are built by volunteers and by partner families who receive their new home for the cost of a no-interest affordable loan. The Gaia Build Program sponsors teams of women on homebuilding projects. For more information, visit www.habitatmclean.org. Contact: Becca Rossi, 309-827-3931.

Neville House

Neville House is a shelter for women and children who are victims of domestic violence. The shelter staffs a domestic violence hotline and offers domestic violence education, legal advocacy, outreach counseling, victims' support groups, and children's support groups to women and children transitioning from violent relationships. Student internships are based on the current needs of the shelter (e.g. doing research for grants and public presentations, or helping to organize local events). Contact: Deborah White or Leola Manley, 309-828-8913. ■

New Course Offering for Spring 2005

**THE 300.01: Topics in the Literature of Theater
Out Front: The Politics of Queer Theatre
9:35 – 10:50 Tuesday/Thursday
Instructor: Dr. John Poole**

We will examine around ten gay and lesbian plays through the lens of the gay and lesbian movements in the 60s and 70s, through the AIDS crisis of the 80s, and close with contemporary readings from the past ten years. Some plays will, in part, be framed by dramatic theory.

Playwrights may include: Emily Mann, Holly Hughes, Charles Ludlum, Harvey Fierstein, Larry Kramer, Jane Chambers, Tim Miller, Charles Busch, Terrence McNally, Martin Sherman, and Kathleen Tolan.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Faculty - Please encourage your students to submit abstracts or complete papers that they prepared for your classes for consideration for the spring symposium.

Tenth Annual Women's Studies Symposium

Friday
April 8, 2005
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

University Art
Galleries

Illinois State
University

*For more information, contact
Women's Studies at:
(309) 438-2947
e-mail Rozel White at:
wstudies@ilstu.edu
or visit our website at:
<http://www.womenstudies.ilstu.edu>*

Call for Papers

Panels in the morning and afternoon

Lunch at noon

Keynote Address (1:00 pm)

Dr. Edris Cooper-Anifowoshe
Writer, Performer, and Artist

Call for Papers

Undergraduate and graduate students are invited to submit proposals for presentation of papers at the Symposium. Proposals/papers are welcome on any topic related to the study of women and gender. Outstanding papers on women and gender issues prepared for courses will be especially welcome!

Proposal

Please send a one-page proposal with the following information to the address below, by March 8, 2005:

Proposed paper title

Your name

The course for which and the professor for whom you wrote/are writing the paper

Your address, telephone number, and e-mail

Please briefly describe your proposed presentation. Where relevant, include a summary of the main argument or findings, your research methodology (if applicable), and sources of information/data.

Send to:

Women's Studies Programming Committee
Illinois State University
Campus Box 4260
Normal, IL 61790-4260

or bring your proposal to the Women's Studies offices, Rachel Cooper, 2nd floor, or e-mail wstudies@ilstu.edu. ■

ACTIVISM ON CAMPUS AND IN THE COMMUNITY

FMLA Activism Focused on Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Kyle Ciani

Heavy rains did little to stifle the energy of Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance (FMLA) members involved with events observing "Domestic Violence Awareness Month" in mid-October. In cooperation with community advocates, FMLA organized several events dedicated to heightening awareness of partner violence and sexual assault, including The Clothesline Project, Take Back the Night, and the Silent Witness Project.

The week began with The Clothesline Project, a powerful public art display installed on the ISU Quad on Tuesday, October 12 under the leadership of FMLA Secretary and Women's Studies minor, Talia Menachem.



From a distance, viewers observed hundreds of colorful t-shirts gently blowing in the wind with the brilliant autumn leaves as a calm backdrop. That beauty drew people closer to the shirts, where they read individual expressions of pain and survival painted or splattered on each shirt.

The Clothesline Project began on college campuses in the early 1990s as part of a national project to educate communities on the widespread problem of violence against women and children. Shirt colors represent the range of abuse endured by survivors: red, pink, and orange signify rape and sexual assault; blue and green indicate incest; yellow represents physical assault; purple signifies one attacked because of sexual identity; black represents an attack for political reasons; and white symbolizes a victim lost in death because of violence.

Clothesline Projects are displayed throughout the country, yet the shirts displayed on the Quad were all created by survivors, as well as friends and family members of survivors, from the Bloomington/Normal area.



Rain forced FMLA to move the exhibit inside to the Bowling and Billiards Center Activity Center where its message endured for those attending this year's Take Back The Night (TBTN) March events on Thursday, October 14. Organized by FMLA Vice President and Women's Studies minor, Angeline Anastasia, TBTN included a pre-march rally where participants heard from survivors of abuse. Marchers set off from the BBC at 7:00 pm., one hundred persons strong. Facing a steady rain, the march wound its way around and through the ISU campus.

This year, TBTN embraced its collaboration with several community advocacy groups, including YWCA Stepping Stones, Mid-Central Community Action-CDV Neville House, Illinois Wesleyan University Alliance for Sexual Assault Prevention, and the Corporate Alliance to End Partner Violence. This year, TBTN organizers invited men to join in the evening's events. For the first time, men marched with women, separating at the end of the march into a men's speak-out discussion space while women marchers gathered for a women's safe space. The night ended with a Candlelight Vigil outside the BBC in remembrance of individuals affected by partner violence and sexual assault.

FMLA member Ralph Hardesty appreciated the ability of men to connect to the events, explaining, "being able to participate in TBTN felt great." The decision to include men in the march allowed for different connections among ISU students. Hardesty noted, "I think it's important to show our community that local feminist action is united against domestic violence and sexual assault. One way toward that unity is to educate men so we can move this event from the symbolic to affecting real change." ■

Tunnel of Oppression Big Success

The Tunnel of Oppression program once again proved to be one of the largest successful diversity initiatives in ISU's history. Bringing over 2200 students, faculty, staff, and community members through the Tunnel in the Prairie Room North in the Bone Student Center, this powerful performance piece gave every participant the opportunity to feel what it is like to be a victim of oppression. The Tunnel was successful not only because of the number of people reached, but also because the program empowered people to reach outside their comfort zone and create change in their own communities. Graduate student Mel B. Freitag offers her impression (edited for graphic language):

(the light at) the end of the tunnel

mel freitag

billie holliday's smooth, sultry sounds absorbing the brick walls, the rope hanging a black person, the swastika white lines glowing in the dark. "go ahead, kill that n----, you f---ing nigger lover!" if you're not outraged, you're not paying attention. melissa etheridge's voice pierces through the blended hate language. only when it's dark enough can we see the stars. etheridge's "scarecrow," dedicated to matt shepard, plays near the young man with blood, with blood on his face, his neck, his white t-shirt. near the young man whose tears run down his cheeks and then dry so you can see them through the dried blood, lines of water, of hopelessness, of death. hate=death. the kkk klansman's whip is a stub now from hitting it so many times on the plastic, graffiti, wall. belt is worn from pretending to hit woman in domestic violence. fat bitch. dirty toilet sits in the middle of large room. images of beautiful women, of women, surround her, she that pukes into the toilet, that makes noises from her gut, from her silence, from her. "do you think i'm pretty?" border patrol sharply threaten with night sticks near the mexican border crossing sign. "do you have your green card?!" put people in groups, in groups of two. tell them to put their hands behind their heads, to get on their knees. ■

Student Counseling Services

invites you to stop by and talk

about your career and future...

about family problems...

about your relationships...

about whatever is on your mind...

Check out our web page at www.counseling.ilstu.edu

Phone 438-3655

Room 320, Student Services Building

Services are Free and Confidential

WOMEN'S STUDIES FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

Perle Besserman Retires

Illinois State University says good-bye this semester to Dr. Perle S. Besserman, an award-winning teacher and scholar of English and Women's Studies. The 2002 winner of the Sigma Tau Delta (English honorary society) Outstanding Teacher Award and author of more than a dozen books, Besserman has taught at ISU since 1996, and will retire this December. Palgrave Macmillan will release her next book, *A New Kabbalah For Women*, in January.



Besserman's academic career began with a BA in Political Science and English from City University of New York (CUNY) - Brooklyn College and an MA and Ph.D. in English from Columbia University. She has taught at Briarcliff College, New York University, CUNY, Southwest China Teacher's College (Sichuan), the University of Hawaii, and Rutgers University, and was Writer-in-Residence at the *Mishkenot Shaananim* Artists' Colony, Jerusalem.

Once a contributing writer for *The Village Voice* (New York) and *A Different Drummer* (Philadelphia), Besserman went on to publish several works of fiction, books for young adults, and nonfiction about the Kabbalah and Zen Buddhism. Her books have been translated into six languages. Her best-known work, *Kabbalah: The Way of the Jewish Mystic*, has been reprinted several times since its original publication by Doubleday (1980) and was reissued in 2001 by Shambala/Random House.

Besserman also authored *Owning It: Zen and the Art of Facing Life* (Kodansha, 1997), and has co-authored several books with Manfred Steger, most recently *Grassroots Zen* (Tuttle, 2000). Houghton Mifflin published her novel, *Pilgrimage: Adventures of a Wandering Jew*, in 1980.

At ISU, where she also won the 2001 Student Education Association Outstanding Teacher Award, Besserman directed graduate students in the Women's Studies Graduate Certificate Program and taught literature and women's studies courses, including Women's Literature in a Global Context. She also served as Chair of the English Department's Feminist Issues Committee.

Our congratulations and best wishes go out to this gifted teacher and writer. ■

Faculty Accomplishments

Sherrilyn Billger and Kevin F. Hallock's article "Mass Layoffs and CEO Turnover" will appear in the next issue of *Industrial Relations*. She also presented "Reconstructing School Segregation? The Impact of Single-Sex Schooling on Labor Market Outcomes" at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) Conference in October.

Maria Canabal has two articles forthcoming: Delgado, E. & Canabal, M.E. (2004), "Work and Family Balance among Latinos in the United States: Barriers and Facilitators," in *Journal of Family and Consumer Sciences* 96(3): 26-31; and Canabal, M.E. (2004), "Visión del Profesional de Ciencias de la Familia y del Consumidor: La Base de Conocimientos para su Desempeño en el Siglo 21," in *Boletín: Uniendo Generaciones para el Bienestar de la Familia*, Asociación Puertorriqueña de Ciencias de la Familia y del Consumidor, pp. 32-35. She also has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the American Council on Consumer Interests (ACCI) as director of External Relations. She will represent ACCI in other organizations, such as Consumers International (CI) and the Trans Atlantic Consumer Dialog (TACD).

Becca Chase, **Paula Ressler**, and **Susan Bloome-Spangler**, along with Normal Community High School teacher **Mary Jespersen**, presented "Developing a Cooperating Teachers Orientation Program—Cooperatively" at

the National Council of Teachers of English conference (NCTE) in Indianapolis in November. Drs. Chase and Ressler also joined Peoria Central High School teacher **Alison Nelson** to present "Preparing Preservice Teachers for an Urban Environment: A Partnership," at the Illinois Association of Teachers of English (IATE) in October at Oak Brook.

Grace Foote-Johns (ISU Physics Assistant to the Chair, EAF doctoral student, and GCWS candidate), organized the Association for Women in Science, Heart of Illinois Chapter's (AWIS-HOI) Career Panel Discussion for Thursday, Nov. 11 at 7pm : "Women Forging Science and Technology Careers in the New Millennium" in IWU's Science Building (Room C101).

Dale Fitzgibbons has two publications in press: V. Jean Ramsey and Dale Fitzgibbons, "Being in the Classroom," in the *Journal of Management Education*; and David S. Steingard, Dale E. Fitzgibbons, and Dennis Heaton, "Exploring the Frontiers of Environmental Management: A Natural Law-Based Perspective," forthcoming in the *Journal of Human Value*.

Sandra Harmon (emeritus) wrote the working draft and did additional research for "A Journey through The Great Depression" which opened October 29, 2004 at the McLean County Museum of History. This is a wonderful interactive exhibit on The Great Depression in McLean County.

Barbara Heyl and **Bill Rau** conducted a workshop on "Collaborative Learning in College Classrooms" on September 21, 2004 in Bangkok, Thailand, for 40 faculty members from several Southeast Asian countries. The workshop was held at a conference co-sponsored by ISU on "Making Educational Reform Happen."

Jin Lee has a one-person exhibition at the Sioux City Art Center from November 6, 2004 to February 6, 2005.

Janice Neuleib gave two conference presentations: "Advanced Placement Workshops" at the College Board Conferences 12 (Experienced Teachers) and 13 (New Teachers), October, Milwaukee, WI; and "Writing with the Wolves" at the IATE conference in October, Oakbrook, IL.

Marla Reese-Weber has two co-authored articles in press: Reese-Weber, M. & Kahn, J., "Familial Predictors of Sibling and Romantic-partner Conflict Resolution: Comparing Late Adolescents from Intact and Divorced Families," in the *Journal of Adolescence*; and Marchand, J. F. & Reese-Weber, M., "Husbands' and Wives' Attachment Anxiety and Depressive Symptoms: Predictors of Positive and Negative Conflict Behaviors in the Marriage," in the *Journal of Adult Development*.

Paula Ressler presented a paper, "Book Challenges Bring Community and Schools Together," at the NCTE national conference in November in Indianapolis.

Julie Webber received the Outstanding Professor Award from Pi Sigma Alpha, a National Political Science honorary organization, and the American Political Science Association in August. She also has co-edited with William M. Reynolds *Expanding Curriculum Theorizing: Dis/Positions and Lines of Flight in Curriculum Studies*, Lawrence Erlbaum Press (2004); and published the article "Global Youth: The Great Divide" in *Workplace: A Journal of Academic Labor*, a special issue on youth and social class (Winter 2003/4).

Janet Wilson directed *Shame the Devil! An Audience with Fanny Kemble*, by Anne Ludlum, at two locations in October. This one-woman show features Lori Adams and celebrates the bravery of 19th-century heroine Fanny Kemble, actress, author, abolitionist, wife, and mother. The play ran for five performances from October 6-10 at The Firehouse Theatre Project in Richmond, Virginia, and also was performed on October 15 at the Women & Creativity National Conference at West Virginia University in Morgantown, WV. For more information about this touring production visit the Fanny Kemble Project website at www.arts.lstu.edu/jmwilso4. ■

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

FMLA Student News and Updates

Ryan Rademacher

October was a busy month for FMLA. Our domestic violence awareness projects, including the Clothesline Project and Take Back The Night, took place in October and were a huge success. We would like to thank everyone who helped with the events, because we *did* make a difference.



As many will remember, November 2 was Election Day and the lines at the polls were long. Student organizations registered over 3000 voters. Some people had to wait in line for over two hours. FMLA would also like to send a *huge* thank you to the students who donated and helped pass out candy to ISU students who waited in the long lines to vote. Many businesses within the Bloomington/Normal community donated food. Your generosity is much appreciated! There was an enormous turn-out of students exercising their right to be heard.

With the busy month of October behind us, FMLA is now turning to future projects. One of the biggest is "The Vagina Monologues" which will be in February 2005. FMLA invites all women to audition for parts in the play. There will be a sub-committee to help with the production process. Volunteers will be needed. The money will go to the Neville House here in Bloomington.

As always, FMLA extends a warm welcome to anyone who wants to attend our meetings on the first and third Mondays each month at 7pm in SSB room 375. FMLA is excited about its future plans and hopes to see old friends and new faces at the meetings. ■

Women's Studies Events Calendar

NOVEMBER

- 29 Craig Womack (Muskogee Creek-Cherokee) will be on campus for a reading and discussion of *Red on Red* and *Drowning in Fire* in the Bone Student Center Founder's Suite from 1:00 - 3:00. His text *Red on Red: Native American Literary Separatism* is influential in Native literature studies. His novel *Drowning in Fire* is relevant to those teaching and studying race/gender/GLBT issues.

DECEMBER

- 2 At 5, life coach Dr. Cheri Miller will be talking to the Women's Mentoring Network participants. The session will be held in the Professional Development Conference room.
- 3 Dr. Rebecca Saunders' students will be presenting "Politics of Memory" at the Graduate Student Conference from 1:00 - 6:00 at the Margery Ellis Library, 2nd floor Stevenson Hall.

Illinois State University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action university