



# Nexus

Connection Communication Community  
Center for Women's Studies



Fall 2003



Photo by Infinite Lens Studio

Pictured standing left to right: Rachel Terman, Whitney Braham, Molly Rager, Jamie Baxter, Nikki Conklin, Ashley Lawson, Erin Price, and Mary Wendekier. Seated Kayla Kreitzer, Elizabeth Harless, Valetta Shuppe and Sue Story. Missing: Theresa Miller and Lauren Hartman.

## WOMEN'S STUDIES HAS A MAJOR!

Harriet Lyon (B.A., 1891) wrote an article in the *WVU Alumni Magazine* in 1936 that still resonates almost seven decades later as we mark this new step in women's studies at WVU. "Across the years and the miles that lie between us," she wrote from her home in New York, "I send a greeting to the Girls of Today, representing as I do, the Girls of Yesterday! It is good to know that you have a more pleasant path to tread than we of long ago. And it is also good to know that your record and achievements furnish, and are furnishing, new and full basis for a rich measure of pride. I salute you!"

Harriet Lyon was with us in spirit on September 12<sup>th</sup>, saluting our "Girls of Today" as the women's studies "family" celebrated our new major in grand style! Thirteen of our fourteen majors were

present for some part of the afternoon reception in the Vandalia Lounge of the Mountainlair, along with their families and friends, visiting committee members, faculty, staff, President Hardesty and other administrators, and community friends. Former women's studies minors, who never had the option to get a major (our "Girls of Yesterday"), came to celebrate with the "Girls of Today" who now have this opportunity and with future majors, including one high school senior who has already decided to be a women's studies major here next year.

The program also linked past and present, as we like to do, with comments from Judith Gold Stitzel, our founding director, and from our new majors. Joan Gorham brought greetings from the dean's office; Joan Browning and Sharon Hurt Davidson represented the visiting committee; and

Elizabeth Engelhardt shared the meaning of “celebrate” as she introduced the new majors. It was one of those magical moments in the history of women’s studies at WVU - the opportunity to introduce our majors to the world - an academic debut, so to speak; to hear about their hopes and dreams; and to celebrate our success in reaching this milestone.

As of early November, we have 20 majors, more than some other more established majors at WVU. Our first major, Jamie Baxter will graduate in December with another major in political science. Several others will follow in May. Look for Jamie at the December convocation and for the others at May’s commencement in their new women’s studies stoles - lavender this time to contrast with the white for our women’s studies minors. We knew students were interested in majoring in women’s studies, but the interest has surpassed expectations for this early in the program. Each of this first group has claimed a special place for herself in the growth of this major - Erin Price was the first to sign up for the major, for instance, and will be the first to graduate with two degrees, as opposed to two majors under the Bachelor of Arts degree. Each knows her “birth order” in this new program.

On behalf of everyone involved with women’s studies at WVU, it is important to thank all those who made this new major possible - Dean M. Duane Nellis and Associate Dean Joan Gorham of the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences for their support; Associate Provost Rosemary Haggett; all the members of the senate and the members of the women’s studies, college, and senate committees who helped write, review, and approve the proposal; and all the “Girls of Today” who have so enthusiastically signed up to be majors.

It was great fun to pause and rest on our laurels for an afternoon, but we need to keep building. Each year, students graduate, and we need new ones to take their places. Our students will continue to be our best recruiters because of their enthusiasm, and we’ll certainly have outstanding students for years to come, but these “Girls of Today,” our first group of majors, will always hold a special place in the history of women’s studies at WVU. We know their achievements will make even more pleasant the path our future majors will tread, and we know the record and achievements of all our majors will furnish a “new and full basis for a rich measure of pride.”

## **FIFTH WOMEN’S STUDIES RESIDENCY IN HONOR OF JUDITH GOLD STITZEL**

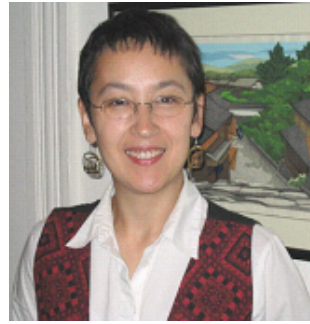


Photo Supplied by Dr. Miller

Elizabeth Miller, M.D., Ph.D., is a researcher at the Stoeckle Center for Primary Care at Massachusetts General Hospital.

A medical anthropologist, physician, and researcher on domestic violence cases visited the West Virginia University campus October 13-15, 2003, as the Fifth Women’s Studies Resident to discuss gender-based violence and its cultural, political, and clinical considerations. Judith Norton welcomed everyone and introduced Dr. Miller at the keynote lecture on Wednesday evening.

Studying relationships among men and women across cultures can be challenging and sometimes disturbing. While in Japan, Miller conducted her research by actually experiencing what women went through as hostesses in a Japanese bar. Her research started in 1991 when the Japanese were beginning to talk about HIV and AIDS more. According to Miller, there were two types of posters for World AIDS Day in Japan. One showed a slim naked woman with long hair and read “Thin but strong enough for AIDS.” The other depicted a man with the message “Have a nice trip. Beware of AIDS.” Miller carried out her field work from 1992 to 1993 and worked for several months to learn more about women’s work in the sex industry. She referred to the migration of women to Japan as the imperialization of Japanese society, which is the recruitment of North Asian women to work in Japan. When some women were recruited to northern Tokyo, they were locked up in a small apartment, Miller said. The women were fed once a day and taken to a bar to work as hostesses from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. They served men from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., she said.

One hostess she met, called Angela, got pregnant and had post-natal depression. Her boyfriend went out and left her alone. At work, men frequently asked for exploitative sex while she concentrated on her tasks. Another tale of loneliness was that of Maria from the Philippines. She was six months’ pregnant when she went into the women’s shelter for help and relied on volunteers at the shelter for assistance.



Photo by Infinite Lens Studio

From Left to Right: Judith Gold Stitzel, Elizabeth Miller, Suzanne Temple and Barb Howe

Miller learned about the problem of talking about sex in Japan. She noted that sex is considered a playful thing by the “sex reporters” and described the sex industry in Japan as the sexualization of the political economy.

### **FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION**



Cynthia Wesley, M.D., Senior Resident in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at West Virginia University School of Medicine.

Photo by WVU School of Medicine

On October 29, 2003, Dr. Cynthia Wesley discussed the medical, legal, and cultural aspects of female circumcision and its impact. This lecture was the Center for Women’s Studies’s contribution to WVU’s Diversity Week. Female genital mutilation (FGM) or female circumcision is the medically unnecessary modification of female genitalia. FGM is a practice that has affected between 100 and 140 million women and girls worldwide and is practiced in twenty-six African countries, various areas of the Middle East, Asia, and South America.

Wesley noted that there are four different classes of FGM – clitoridectomy, excision, infibulation, and type IV, which includes other classes. Clitoridectomy, also known as “sunnah,” has been used in both England and the United States since the 19<sup>th</sup> century to “cure” nymphomania, lesbianism, masturbation, and hysteria. Excision involves the total removal of the clitoris and partial or total excision of the labia, while infibulation entails the removal of the clitoris, vulva, and labia minora and majora.

After these procedures, the girls’ legs are tied together for up to 40 days, which can make urination and menstruation both difficult and painful. The World Health Organization is alarmed

that the age of the victims is getting lower and lower. The major problem is that there are no steps taken to relieve their pain, as “anesthesia is virtually unknown.” To make it worse, Dr. Wesley added, FGM is usually undertaken with unsterilized instruments like broken glass, tin lids, scissors, razor blades, or “ceremonial” knives. This combination of unsterilized instruments and lack of anesthetics can lead to tetanus, shock, and hemorrhages in which the girls bleed to death.

FGM also increases their risk of HIV and AIDS for multiple reasons, she said. According to Wesley, the main reason behind FGM is tradition: “For most, tradition and custom seem to be the main reason.” It is believed in many countries that uncircumcised women are unclean. They are often not allowed to even handle food or water.

This practice is condemned by the World Medical Association and is outlawed in France, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States, among other countries.

### **DIRECTOR’S COLUMN** by Barb Howe

It is a pleasure to take an opportunity, at this season of Thanksgiving and celebration, to reflect on the past few months here at the Center for Women’s Studies. And a season of celebration it certainly has been, as the WVU Board of Governors approved our new major on June 6<sup>th</sup> (see story on page 1), and our first student signed up for the major shortly thereafter.

As we’ve joined our students in celebrating this milestone, we also had to face the sobering fact that WVU’s budget woes meant the loss of our program specialist position (see story on page 7). We very much appreciate the fact that Dean Nellis provided funding to hire a graduate assistant to help with some of the duties that Marlene Robinson had handled, and all of us at WVU appreciate President Hardesty’s leadership in trying to stop further budget cuts, especially at a time of record-high enrollments. We know we are not alone among higher education institutions around the country in facing budget crises - and we know we would be in even worse shape without the contributions of all of the donors to women’s studies, for your support is vital to our success.

I’m pleased to report that the number of students involved with women’s studies is growing as we find new ways to advertise our program. In addition to 1 women’s studies-directed Master of Arts in Liberal Studies student and 20 majors, we now have 12 students in the graduate certificate program, 21 minors, and 6 students in the Regents B.A. program, earning an undergraduate certificate or Area of Emphasis in women’s studies. Most of our majors have come

from the ranks of the minors who adjusted their schedules to complete women's studies as a second major or second degree, so we now need to rebuild the ranks of the minors. Our courses fill quickly, making it a challenge to reach first-year students, but we enjoyed being part of WVU's "Majors Day" fair this year to announce our major, and Jamie Baxter, one of our work-studies/majors, is participating in the Mountaineer Visitation Days on campus, reminding all who stop at the college table that, whatever their prospective major, women's studies would be a great minor or second major.

In addition to our celebration for the major on September 12<sup>th</sup>, we have had a busy semester. Dr. Elizabeth Miller was our Fifth Women's Studies Resident, and you can read about her visit elsewhere in this newsletter. Dr. Miller is a friend of Suzanne Temple, who has been the primary donor to our endowment since it began, and we enjoyed the opportunity to host Liz, Suzanne, and their friends in October. We've also had Fireside Chats on topics as diverse as the women's liberation movement in the 1960s and 1970s, female circumcision, American women poets in the twenty-first century, and technology, surveillance, and gender.

We also continue to work with colleagues across the campus on several very important projects. While we did not get the grant we'd hoped to receive from the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a Center of Excellence in Women's Health, we were pleased that we got a site visit on our first attempt at this grant and are talking about how to proceed without the federal funding.

You can read about the upcoming women and creativity conference on page 10.

Last but not least, the women's studies community continues to work hard for social justice on and off campus through the Community Coalition for Social Justice, Coalition for West Virginia Women, Morgantown NOW, and on campus, through FEM, the Council for Women's Concerns, Council on Sexual Orientation, Safe Zone Program, and Social Justice Liaison Program. Students in my section of the Introduction to Women's Studies course are working with the Council for Women's Concerns on a campus climate survey/needs assessment this semester, with particular attention to issues related to safety, and plans are underway for the third "Mom's Turn to Learn Day" at the Morgantown Mall, to be co-sponsored by the Council for Women's Concerns and Center for Women's Studies. Students in Dr. Engelhardt's Feminist Theory class are hosting girls from High Rocks Academy on a college visit and will continue to work with them next semester.

I've also given presentations on the *Status of Women in West Virginia* report to the Southern Conference on Women's History and National Women's Studies Association (both with Joan Browning of our visiting committee) and Women of Appalachia conference at Ohio University-Zanesville (with Judy Wilkinson of our visiting committee), as well as to the Charleston Business

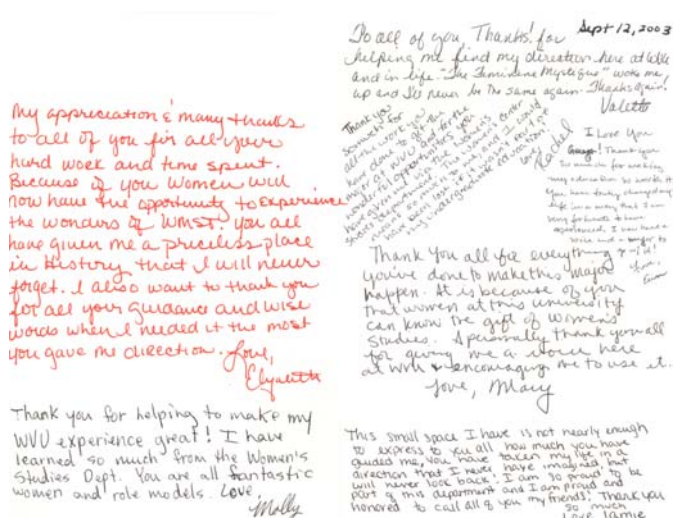
Women's Forum.

In closing, I want to thank all those who have worked so hard for our success - Dr. Elizabeth Engelhardt, Marlene Robinson, Cathy Jasper, Will Karigomba; Constina Charbonnette, Heather Frederick, Brie Frey, Amanda Ray; all the donors to our Women's Studies Program; and our work-studies *extraordinaire* - Jamie Baxter, Theresa Miller, Nicole Raach, and Molly Rager. Jamie, Theresa, and Molly are in our first class of women's studies majors. I also want to thank the faculty associates who serve on our committees and Dean M. Duane Nellis and the staff of the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences for their support.

My final thanks goes to Dr. Katherine Karraker, associate professor of psychology, who is giving me the great gift of agreeing to be interim director of the Center for Women's Studies next semester while I am on sabbatical. I know you will extend to her the cooperation you've given me and understand if my response to your queries next semester will be "talk to Katherine." I will be back on May 16, 2004, and will see you then.

## STUDENTS' PERSPECTIVES

On September 12, 2003, some of our majors gave the Center's faculty and staff a card with these very special comments.



## MEET THE GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANTS

**Brie Frey**



Photo by WVU McNair Scholars Program

Salutations! Let me introduce myself. I am Brie Frey, the geographer in the Center for Women’s Studies. Currently, I am in my second semester of graduate school in the Department of Geology and Geography. While pursuing my M.A. in geography, I am simultaneously enrolled in the Certificate for Nonprofit Management offered through the School of Applied Social Sciences. The purpose of my research is to integrate my feminist/gender geography background in examining non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on the African continent and the effect on their local culture, environment, and specific region. For this, I have my sight set on conducting research with DAWN (Development Alternatives for Women of a New Era) that works with NGOs in the developing world but is organized by women. DAWN focuses on education and activism. This interest is a continuation of my undergraduate McNair research in South Africa, my strong passion for international women’s issues, my interest in cultural education, and my undergraduate B.A. in environmental geoscience.

Finally, teaching in the Introduction to Women’s Studies course is a dream come true for me because I am allowed and encouraged to follow issues that are part of my academic goals and my personal goals in life. Thank you for that opportunity!

**Constinia Charbonnette**



Photo by Center for Women’s Studies

As a returning GTA for the fall semester of 2003, I am excited about the new year. I am still pursuing a doctoral degree in Curriculum and Instruction in the College of Human Resources and Education. My research focuses on the examination of current character education models in the curriculum for adjudicated African American males with learning and behavioral disorders. Also, during the last academic year, I had an opportunity to work with this population in Wheeling,

W.Va., through the HOPE program. This helped me narrow my ideas and scope of my research for my dissertation.

**Amanda Ray**



Photo by Center for Women’s Studies

I am in my second year of law school. I worked at Legal Aid of West Virginia in Charleston in the family law division this summer. I helped draft divorce petitions and did some research to rewrite the law relating to domestic violence and name changes in West Virginia. I attended a conference on domestic violence at West Virginia State College and another conference on issues of equity and poverty at the Charleston Civic Center. I then returned to Morgantown and taught a section of Women's Studies 170 in the summer. Now, I am focusing on employment discrimination and issues of race and the law in law school.

**Heather Frederick**



Photo by Center for Women’s Studies

I am a doctoral candidate in the Political Science Department. My dissertation focuses on political action committees that support women candidates for Congress. My research in political science examines women’s role in the electoral process. I came to the Center for Women’s Studies after teaching Introduction to American Government and State and Local Government in political science for three years in an effort to expand the theoretical base for my research, as well as my opportunities on the job market.

## Wilbert Karigomba



Photo by Will Karigomba

I am a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Geology and Geography. I joined the Center for Women's Studies in the fall of 2003 after spending three years in the Department of Geology and Geography as a research assistant on various Geographic Information Systems and remote sensing projects in Appalachia and southern Africa. My dissertation focuses on exploring the land question in Appalachia, using spatial multimedia. I feel great to be able to make a difference to the Center.

### FACULTY ASSOCIATES' ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The following faculty associates are worth acknowledging and congratulating. Amongst the faculty associates whom the Eberly College promoted in May 2003 were **Gwen Bergner**, from assistant professor to associate professor of English with tenure; **Kirk Hazen**, from assistant professor to associate professor of English with tenure; **JoNell Strough**, from assistant professor to associate professor of psychology with tenure; **Kristina Olson**, from research assistant professor to research associate professor of Art; and **Janet Snyder** from assistant professor to associate professor of Art with tenure.

The WVU Center for Black Culture and Research, in May 2003, honored **Gwen Bergner** with the Cheikh Anta Diop Award for outstanding academic scholarship and research in Africana studies and **Janis-Rozena Peri**, associate professor of voice, with the Marian Anderson/Alvin Ailey Award for outstanding achievements in art.

Delegate **Barbara Evans Fleischauer** of Morgantown, a member of our women's studies visiting committee, received the inaugural Legislator of the Year Award from the West Virginia Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). The award, which recognizes Fleischauer as a legislator who shares the values of professional social workers, was presented at the NASW annual Spring Conference in Charleston. "Delegate Fleischauer's commitment to fairness and social justice exemplifies the values of the social work profession," NASW WV Chapter President **Dr. Eleanor Blakely** said. Dr. Blakely is also a Center for Women's Studies faculty associate.

**Dana D. Brooks**, dean of the School of Physical Education, was recently inducted into the Hagerstown (MD) Community College Hall of Fame. Brooks was a member of the Hagerstown Community College's men's basketball team from 1969 to 1971 and received his A.A from Hagerstown Junior College in 1971. He went on to receive a bachelor's degree from Towson College in 1973, a master's degree from WVU in 1976, and his doctorate in education from WVU in 1979. Brooks has served as the dean of WVU's School of Physical Education since 1993.

**Mary Ann Samyn**, assistant professor of English, was awarded the Riggle Fellowship in Humanities by the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences to support junior faculty members to support research and creative endeavors leading to tenure.

### ELIZABETH ENGELHARDT'S COLUMN



Photo by WVU Photographic Services

Greetings, everyone. I hope everyone has enjoyed the West Virginia fall weather. Now is the time to start stacking up the books for winter, hot-chocolate-sipping afternoons.

In the last issue, I discussed putting finishing touches on my book, *The Tangled Roots of Feminism, Environmentalism, and Appalachian Literature*. You can see it on the Ohio University Press website

<http://www.ohiou.edu/oupress/tangledroots.htm>. I spent the summer finishing editing a collection that will be the first book explicitly on Appalachian women's studies. I had fun writing my contribution to it on the halftime show from last year's football bowl game between West Virginia University and University of Virginia—the parody of the reality television show "The Bachelor" making fun of the female mountaineer. *Beyond Hill and Hollow: Original Readings in Appalachian Women's Studies* should be available next year sometime.

I also was fortunate to receive support from our Mossburg Fund to attend last summer's National Women's Studies Association annual meeting. I am always inspired by my

colleagues in the field and was pleased to represent the Center at the conference in New Orleans. We have plans for me to give a Fireside Chat this spring, and I hope it will be one of many opportunities to spread the word about Appalachian women's studies.

This spring also marks the debut of my new course on Women in Movies. We're going to have fun analyzing bad, blockbuster, Hollywood flicks—and figuring out what we really think about girls, cheerleaders, brides, working girls, moms, old women, and action heroines in our society. I'll also be welcoming a new crop of students into the Women in Appalachia course and the capstone course on service learning and global feminism. We continue our partnership with High Rocks Academy for Girls down in Pocahontas County, and I am so pleased to hear that many of you have gotten involved with them as well.

Finally, a big welcome to our new graduate teaching assistants, Heather Frederick and Brie Frey. They join Constina Charbonnette and Amanda Ray to form our teaching team for Introduction to Women's Studies. I hope all of you get the chance to meet them around the Center and through their scholarship.

Happy holidays everyone, and thank you always for the life you contribute to the Center.

**FEM** by Elizabeth Harless – President

Many exciting events happened for FEM and the Center for Women's Studies this semester. The fact that women's studies became an official major was an accomplishment and a highlight for everyone, especially for students who were women's studies minors and now can change their status to women's studies majors. This semester FEM has been striving to build a stronger organization and to expand our efforts out to Morgantown's diverse community. FEM has an incredible group of officers who work very well together. Fall semester has gone by so quickly for us all, but as an organization, we have really come together to build strong relationships and networks, and our membership has increased over the course of the semester.

The Women's Studies Celebration on September 12th got everyone off to an exciting start.



Photo by Will Karigomba

Major Celebration. From left to right: Rachel Terman, Elizabeth Harless and Roxana Bailey

September also brought the WVU annual Organization Fair for campus organizations, and FEM had an information booth to reach potential members; this was an excellent networking opportunity for us. FEM also participated in the **Get Carded Program**, which Ruth Kershner and Deb Strouse led to provide information to students about sexual awareness. We handed out cards at several locations on campus that provided information on where a student could go for medical treatment and phone numbers to call if sexually assaulted.

**October was both Domestic Violence and Breast Cancer Awareness months.** FEM participated in a Breast Cancer Awareness walk and raised \$220 for the American Cancer Society. The local Rape and Domestic Violence Information Center (RDVIC) held a candlelight vigil at the Courthouse Square in honor and memory of victims of domestic violence and rape, and FEM members and officers attended to show their support. These issues have touched many of us or our loved ones, so bringing awareness to our community and the campus is and will always be important.

November brought many organizations, including the Young Democrats, Sierra Club, BIGLM, Students for Economic Justice, and Students for Dean, together for the "Anybody But Bush Benefit Show" at 123 Pleasant Street. People of all ages gathered to hear the featured bands, and we sold "Bush-bashing" merchandise to raise money for all the organizations that participated. The goal was to get out information about voting and the Democratic candidates running in the 2004 presidential election. The highlight of the evening was the fact that Doris "Granny D" Haddock attended our event since she is now taking her campaign to campuses, where she raps to the young people about voting. Granny D is 91 years old and has been very active throughout her life; when she was 89, she walked across the U.S. to demonstrate her

concern for campaign finance reform. She is an inspiration to all activists, and having her at the benefit show was an honor.

Plans and aspirations for the spring semester include Take Back the Night, Vagina Monologues, and, as our major project, traveling to Washington, D.C., to take part in the **March for Freedom of Choice**. Recent challenges to abortion rights, including Congress's passage of the so-called "Partial Birth Abortion Bill" which President Bush signed, have limited abortion rights. There is now a serious need for women to speak up for the right to make private medical decisions concerning reproductive options. These decisions should not be made by a politician. To take this right away from women is unconstitutional and, hopefully, will not hold up in court. Meanwhile, though, we must make our voices heard. FEM is reaching out to our community and our fellow students to please join us in Washington to march for freedom of choice and reproductive rights. If anyone is interested in going on this trip, tickets will be \$40 for bus transportation. For more information and to join our email list for this effort, write to [choicemarch@hotmail.com](mailto:choicemarch@hotmail.com).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the officers and members for all your enthusiasm and participation. I would like to especially thank Crystal Hoover for showing me the ropes of the organization and always being there to answer any questions. It has been a great semester, and there are many exciting events for the upcoming year. FEM would also like to give a special thanks to Dr. Elizabeth Engelhardt, FEM's advisor, for always being such a great mentor.

### **MARLENE ROBINSON IS NEW OWNER OF COBBLER'S BENCH**

Marlene Robinson, program specialist at the Center for Women's Studies from April 2001 to October 2003, is the new owner of the Cobbler's Bench, a store in downtown Morgantown that specializes in shoe repair and clothing alterations. She took over as owner of the store in September and has already received a great deal of publicity, including a story on West Virginia Public Radio related to health insurance for small business owners and a story in the *State Journal*, the West Virginia business newspaper, in October.

Marlene was president of the West Virginia Alliance for Women's Studies before working for the center, where she was responsible for planning our events, advising our students, publicizing our events, and producing this newsletter. However, West Virginia University is experiencing budget cuts throughout the institution, accompanied by record high enrollments, and the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences met some of these cuts through eliminating classified staff positions.

While the college and university were committed to finding employment elsewhere at WVU for those who lost their positions, Marlene firmly believed that "where one door closes,

another opens." We wish her the very best of luck in this new endeavor.

### **EVENTS IN REVIEW FALL 2003**

- September 12 – Celebration of Major in Women Studies
- September 17 – Fireside Chat. "The Rise of the Women's Liberation Movement." Dr. Dennis Wainstock
- September 25 – New Women Faculty Potluck Dinner
- October 1- Teaching Lunch. Dr. Ellesa High and Native American Studies students
- October 14 to 16 – Women Studies Residency in Honor of Judith Gold Stitzel. Dr. Elizabeth Miller
- October 29 – Fireside Chat. "Female Genital Mutilation." Dr. Cynthia Wesley
- November 4 – Fireside Chat. "Avant Garde: American Women Poets in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." Dr. Mary Ann Samyn
- November 9 – "A Commitment to Diversity: One Community at a Time." Female Equality Movement.
- November 12 – Fireside Chat. "Technology, Surveillance and Gender." Dr. Gary Marx
- November 19 – Teaching Lunch. Dr. Katherine Bankole

### **UPCOMING EVENTS SPRING 2004**

- January 28 – Fireside Chat. "Curiosity and Cognitive Maps: Fresh Insights into Information Literacy and Women's Studies." Carroll Wilkinson
- February 11 – Fireside Chat. "Globalizing Gender: Perspectives from the South". Dr. Ann Oberhauser.
- Feb 20 - 22– Vagina Monologues. Female Equality Movement
- February 25 – Teaching Lunch. "Motivating Students for Social Action". LaDonna Harris.
- March 10 – Fireside Chat. "Sociodemographic Characteristics of the Oldest Old and their Contributions to Informal Networks (family, friends and neighbors)." Dr. Bei Wu
- March 25 – Fireside Chat. "Neglected People." G24 Eiesland Hall. 7p.m.
- April 13 – Fireside Chat. Dr. Elizabeth Engelhardt.
- March 29 – Mom's Turn to Learn Day. Morgantown Mall. Co-sponsored with Council for Women's Concerns
- April 17 – Honors Awards Ceremony. Center for Women Studies. Mountainlair, Rhododendron Room

### **2003 VISITING COMMITTEE**





Photo by Center for Women's Studies

From left to right: Sharon Hurt Davidson, Jayne Armstrong, Mildred Bright, Leslie Clay, Jane Yohe Cooley, Judith Wilkinson, Barbara Evans Fleischauer and Joan Browning

**THE JOY OF GIVING** by Deborah Miller, J.D., Director of Gift Planning



Photo by WVU Photographic Services

When will Americans have the first opportunity to vote for a female presidential candidate? Will it be during our lifetimes?

The value of women's studies programs all across the United States is that they can educate many about the history and future directions of the women's movement. Those who become politically active will have additional insights about these important issues.

A valuable way to support the growth of the WVU Women's Studies Program is through making a current gift. Using cash, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, or even real estate makes sense as a way to make something special happen.

Also, supplementing your lifetime support with a gift provision included in your will or revocable trust as part of your estate planning efforts is a smart choice. The wording of "to the West Virginia University Foundation, Inc., for the benefit of the

Eberly College of Arts & Sciences' Center for Women's Studies" is all that is needed.

Another special option is designating a portion of your retirement account (using the same wording as that used in a will) as an after-death gift or adding a "payable on death" designation to a checking, savings, or stock account.

Contacting the account administrator to arrange either gift is all that is needed. What could your gift accomplish? Truly important things for the Women Studies Program, of course. You may specify that your gift would create an endowment fund to provide a scholarship for students in the women's studies major, faculty development funds, program enhancements, library resources, or other helpful support options. An endowment lasts forever, provides annual income for the chosen purpose, and carries the name of whomever you wish to honor.

To make your gift idea work, call me at 800-847-3856, Dr. Rudolph Almasy at (304) 293-6411, or Dr. Barbara Howe at (304) 293-2339 ext. 1155. All of these gifts count in the Building Greatness Campaign if the donor is at least age 65 by December 31, 2003. Your choices to help advance this important program will truly improve the likelihood that there will be many future female U.S. presidents!

**FACULTY ASSOCIATES APPRECIATE MOSSBURG FUND**

Thanks to the Mossburg fund, I had the opportunity to participate in the annual meeting of the International Association for Feminist Economics in Barbados. This interdisciplinary conference was an exciting gathering of scholars, activists, and policy-makers who shared ideas about gender and economics. We also found time to enjoy the Caribbean surf and live calypso music!!

-**Dr Ann M. Oberhauser**, Associate Professor of Geography

I used funding from the Mossburg Fund to purchase 15 books to support my feminist scholarship on racism and its impact on "white" lives - what we gain and what we lose. These books include *Impacts of Racism on White Americans* by Benjamin Bowser and Raymond Hunt, *Learning to Be White: Money, Race, and God in America* by Thandeka, and *Whiteness: A Critical Reader*.

- **Dr. Melissa Latimer**, Associate Professor of Sociology

I am writing to thank you for awarding me the Judy Mossburg funds for books. The books I have purchased will be of great use to me and my students. We have used them already! Again thank you.

- **Dr. Deborah J. Jones**, Assistant Professor of Psychology

## **WOMEN AND CREATIVITY CONFERENCE**

Plans are moving rapidly for our conference scheduled for October 13-15, 2004, entitled Women and Creativity 2004: Examining the Past/Composing the Future. Kristina Olson is chairing the program committee for the conference, and, at last count, the planning committee totaled close to 40 people from the College of Creative Arts, Council for Women's Concerns, Center for Women's Studies, Arts Monongahela, Inc., Convention and Visitors Bureau of Greater Morgantown, and other groups.

Some of you will remember the first women and creativity conference in 1984 and the second in 1994, so this will be the third decennial conference!

Featured events will be our Sixth Women's Studies Residency, with composer Libby Larsen on campus before the conference starts; a keynote address by Larsen on October 13<sup>th</sup> and an opportunity to visit local galleries that day; the fall WVU Symphony concert on October 14<sup>th</sup>, featuring Laura Kobayashi playing "Still Life for Violin," one of Larsen's compositions; a play on Friday night; and a program focusing on the work of Martha Graham.

Many more details of this conference will be in place by the time you get our spring newsletter, but mark your calendars now and plan to join us.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW STUDENTS

The following students have joined the Women Studies Program as undergraduate or graduate students since May 2003.



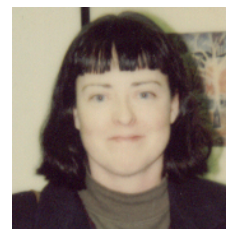
Amanda Smith - Minor



Amanda Breccia - Minor



Jessica Schneider - Major



Judith Norton - MALS



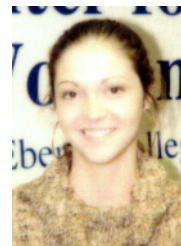
Yue Yuwen – Graduate Certificate



Tiffany Allen - Minor



Mei Zongxiang –  
Graduate Certificate



Jennifer Hicks - Major



Roxana Bailey - Major



Theresa Miller - Major



Andrea Dispenza - Minor



Genevieve Cox – Graduate Certificate

### Not Pictured

Allison Benedetti – Minor  
Lilith Caron – Graduate Certificate  
Lauren Hartman - Major  
Angel Maxwell – Graduate Certificate  
Caridad Morales– Graduate Certificate  
Ann Njoroge – Graduate Certificate  
Sarah Pederson – Major  
Lynne Ryan – RBA-Undergraduate Certificate  
Brittany Schroeder – Graduate Certificate  
Jennifer Sexton – Minor



Amy Moser – Graduate Certificate



Brittany Benson - Major



Crystal Hoover – Major



Jacklyn Gonzales – Major

## CENTER STAFF LIST

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Center for Women's Studies and Professor Emerita of  
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October 2003)  
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**S. Melissa Latimer** - Adjunct Associate Professor  
**Kathleen E. Mc Nerney** – Adjunct Professor  
**Janice S. Spleth** - Adjunct Professor  
**Cynthia K. Stackpole** - Adjunct Assistant Professor  
**Jamie Baxter** – Work-Study Student  
**Theresa Miller** – Work-Study Student  
**Nicole Raach** – Work-Study Student  
**Molly Rager** – Work-Study Student  
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**Constina Charbonnette** - Graduate Teaching  
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**Amanda Ray** - Graduate Teaching Assistant,  
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**Heather Frederick** - Graduate Teaching Assistant,  
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**Sue Amos** – Center Photographer, Infinite Lens  
sue.amos@wvu.edu

## WHAT OUR STUDENTS ARE READING THIS FALL

### Philosophy 130 Current Moral Problems

Weston, Anthony. *A Practical Companion to Ethics*. Oxford University Press (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.), 2002.

Mappes, Thomas and Jane Zembaty eds. *Social Ethics: Morality and Social Policy*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., McGraw-Hill, 2002.

### Psychology 343 Child and Adolescent Development

Hetherington, E.M., and R. D. Parke, *Child Psychology: A Contemporary Viewpoint*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed., rev. ed., R.D. Parke & V.O. Otis. McGraw-Hill, 1999.

### MDS 122 Human Sexuality

Strong, De Vault, Sayad, & Yarber. *Human Sexuality: Diversity in Contemporary America*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed., McGraw-Hill, 2001.

## Sociology 405 An Introduction to Social Inequality/Stratification

Rosenblum Karen and Toni Michelle C. Travis. *The Meaning of Difference*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. McGraw-Hill Companies, 2003.

Hurst, Charles. *Social Inequality: Forms, Causes, and Consequences*. 5<sup>th</sup> ed., Allyn and Bacon, 2004.

Holtzman, Linda. *Media Messages*. M.E. Sharpe, 2000.

McBride, James. *The Color of Water*. Riverhead Books, 1996.

## Sociology 360 Women and Men in Society

Richardson, Laurel, Verta Taylor and Nancy Whittier eds. *Feminist Frontiers*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. McGraw-Hill, 2004.

Kimmel, Michael S. and Michael A. Messner. *Men's Lives*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed., Allyn and Bacon, 2001.

## WMST 170 Introduction to Women's Studies

Richardson, Taylor, and Whittier, eds. *Feminist Frontiers 6*. McGraw-Hill, 2004.

Findlen, Barbara, ed. *Listen Up: Voices From the Next Feminist Generation*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Seal, 2001.

Hornbacher, Marya. *Wasted: A Memoir of Anorexia and Bulimia*. Harper, 1999.

The Boston Women's Health Book Collective. *Our Bodies, Ourselves for the New Century*. Simon and Schuster, 1998.

Ozeki, Ruth. *My Year of Meats*. Penguin, 1998.

Caiazza, Amy B., ed. *The Status of Women in West Virginia*. Institute for Women's Policy Research, 2002.

## ART DONATED TO WOMEN'S STUDIES

Elizabeth Brown of Triadelphia, West Virginia, has donated a beautiful quilt made by Morgantown's Cynthia Myerberg. The quilt won a prize in an international art quilt exhibition called "Women Consuming/Women Consumed" that was held in San Francisco in April 2000. Ms. Brown purchased this at the YWCA Art Auction in Wheeling and has given it to us as an in-kind contribution. It is hanging in our lounge, so please come by to enjoy this new addition to the Center.

Carmen Durrani, a faculty member at Concord College and participant in the NEH Women in Islam seminar, has donated a woolen tapestry of a village scene near Rawlapindi in the Punjab Province of Pakistan. This was made by women in the village, and Professor Durrani purchased it when she visited the village in 1986.

## ALUMNAE NEWS

### Nina Riivald

I graduated from WVU with a B.A. in English in August 2001 and with a Women's Studies-Directed Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS) degree in August 2003. My research focus was HIV and other sexually transmitted infections among adolescent females in Appalachia and HIV education, specifically for these young women.

I am now working for the Morgantown Area Youth Services Project (MAYSP), which is a non-profit juvenile delinquency intervention program. I created the *Women's Health Issues Group: HIV, AIDS, & STIs: Prevention and Awareness*, for the at-risk adolescent females involved with MAYSP. I also work at University High School (UHS) with the Youth Transitions Program, a component of MAYSP. At UHS, I work with at-risk 9th graders who need assistance transitioning into high school life.

**Moira Shaw** was awarded the Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship to continue her education and work to spread good will in Bolivia from August 2003 to August 2004. Moira is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Morgantown and is studying peace and conflict resolution at La Universidad Nur (The University of Light) in Santa Cruz. In addition, she will help create scholarships for indigenous students and will speak to Rotarian groups in Bolivia. "I am really thrilled, it's going to be an amazing opportunity to spend the most time abroad that I've ever spent," Shaw said.

Shaw said her years at WVU were instrumental in helping her move onto this next stage in her life. "I am indebted to the Center for Women's Studies, because without women's studies I wouldn't know what was happening in the world and why it's necessary to have a social conscience," she said. (Source: *Dominion Post* – 5/18/03)

**Dr. Christine "CJ" Brehm**

I am presently finishing the first semester of my third year as a full-time, tenure-track professor of political science/public policy analysis in the Department of Behavioral and Political Sciences at Bentley College. I have a two-year appointment to the Student Affairs Committee, which allows me to work with the Gender Issues Council (of which I am also a member) and the Sexual Orientation Action Team (again, a group of which I am a member) to analyze and improve campus climate for women, minorities, and the LGBT communities. I will be traveling to Chicago (the Midwest Political Science Association conference) to present papers related to the impact of college diversity courses on stereotypes and intolerance and support for affirmative action. I have been working with Bentley faculty on creating an Institute of Women and Leadership and on resurrecting the Institutional Campus Climate Committee so that campus climate for faculty and staff will be assessed and reported.

**Rosemarie P. Krol**

I graduated from WVU in December 2001 with a B.S. in Human Resource Management. Currently, I am finishing (graduating in December 2003) my MBA in Management.

**Rebecca North**

I am attending San Francisco State University!! And I love it!!!

Graduate school is great great great!! San Francisco is AWESOME!!!! sooooo much culture and activism and photography and poetry and art and music!! It's excellent!!

**Kerry Stephen**

Kerry Stephen is a member of the Frederick County (Md.) Commission for Women (FCCFW). The Frederick County Board of Commissioners appoints thirteen members who serve as volunteers on the FCCFW for three years, and Kerry has just been appointed to her second term. She is also currently serving as the recorder, web master and vice chairperson for the Frederick County Women's Fair and serves on the fair's Marketing and Outreach Team. You may visit the commission's website at [www.co.frederick.md.us/FCCFW](http://www.co.frederick.md.us/FCCFW). Her paid employment is in the sales department of a telecommunications company (Sprint Communications) in Rockville, Maryland. She has also recently become a certified mediator through the Maryland Association of Community Mediation Centers. Kerry graduated cum laude in May 1996 with a B.A. degree in English and a minor in women's studies.

**THANK YOU,  
FRIENDS OF WOMEN'S STUDIES**

Gifts totaling \$ 8,283.90 were received May 12, 2003, through November 10, 2003, for general program support, scholarship and award endowments or funds, and special events. Persons honored and families of those honored by memorial gifts are apprised of gifts that honor them or loved ones.

Abbreviations: IMO = in memory of, IHO = in honor of, GIK = gift in kind.

**Women's Studies Program Support**

- |                                |                         |
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| Susan Bates                    | Barbara T. Bontempo     |
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| Elizabeth Brown (GIK)          | Sandra E. Czernek       |
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Jayne E. Armstrong  
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**Women's Studies Residency**

Lynn Thompson Bryant              Sharon Goodman (*GIK*)  
Debbie Miller                        Suzanne Temple  
Nikki Orlemann

**Velma Miller Graduate Scholar Award**

Mildred Bright  
Helen and Rudy Almasy (*IMO Mildred Deaner Thompson*)  
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Rita and Stephen Tanner (*IMO Mildred Deaner Thompson*)

**Carrie Koeturius Scholarships for Returning Women Students**

Barbara Nunley

**Judy Mossburg Fund for Faculty & Staff Development**

Suronda A. Gonzalez

**Library Endowment**

Deborah L. McHenry