

From the Director

Women, History and Politics

It broke my heart, when, during the 2004 election, my nine year old son asked me, "Mom, can a girl be president?" More recently, I've heard several times that the United States isn't ready for a woman president. Indeed, a recent Gallup/USA Today poll asked "if your party nominated a well-qualified person for president, would you vote for them if he or she was ... [followed by a list of characteristics]." Only 88% of respondents answered affirmatively if the candidate was a woman. Those deemed more acceptable than women included Catholic, Black, and Jewish candidates, all accepted by over 90% of voters.

In discussing this with people, I've realized that ignorance about women's accomplishments is not just national but international: people don't know that Michele Bachelet is now president of Argentina, that Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf is president of Liberia, Mary McAleese is president of Ireland, that the presidents of the Philippines, Finland, and Latvia are women. What have these countries and those that have selected women as prime minister done to "get ready" that we in the United States have not? One answer to this question is simple: they have elected women to political office in far greater numbers than has the U.S. After the 2006 elections, women make up 16% of the Congress, putting us at a shameful 67th out of 189 world nations. This puts the U.S. "near the bottom of Western industrialized democracies" (iwpr.org).

The top ten include, by the way, Rwanda, Sweden, Costa Rica, Finland, Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, Cuba, Spain, Argentina, and Mozambique. Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Alice Paul, Rosa Parks, and our other feminist foremothers would be disappointed that we have not yet elected women in sufficient numbers to enable them to enact legislation and policies that might reflect their particular interests as women.

My comments here are not designed to campaign for Hillary Clinton! However, I do mean to illustrate the continuing need for Women's Studies and for your feminist activism. I believe that ignorance of women's history, struggles, intelligence, achievement, and successes continues to impact the position of women today. Let's get back to work!



Dr. Angela Hubler, program director, with scholarship winners Abby Heraud (above left) and Pat Brooks (above right). These scholarships, the first awarded by the Women's Studies Program, were made possible by the hard work and donations of many students, community and faculty members. The process began in 1997 when Dr. Bonnie Nelson was director and spearheaded fundraising that established our scholarship account. Our interest has been accumulating, and thanks to an additional gift by Women's Studies faculty member Dr. Karen De Bres, we made our very first awards. However, our interest has been depleted by these scholarships and without additional gifts, it will not be possible to offer another scholarship for some time. If you would like to make this possible sooner, we would love to receive your gifts to the KSU Foundation- Women's Studies Scholarship, sent to 2323 Anderson Avenue, P.O. Box 1806, 66502-2911. Thanks!



Students of Dr. Torry Dickinson at a display table for the Fair Trade Fair.

This Year's Scholarship Winners

Abby Heraud is a senior in French and Women's Studies. She transferred to KSU in the fall of 2005 after having been away from school for a year and a half while living and working abroad in France. Abby says that coming back to school was a challenge. She commutes to K-State from Council Grove, Kansas. She works at the K-State Women's Center where she helps with the Campaign for Nonviolence's "Season for Nonviolence" and with the annual "Date with Hate" event at commencement. She is a SafeZone ally on campus as well as a Women's Studies Ambassador. Abby volunteers with the Flint Hills Chapter of PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays). After getting involved in her academic programs and becoming more involved on campus and in the community, she feels that she has really found her niche and looks forward to graduating in December and continuing her education at KSU in the Master's program.

Pat Brooks is a fifty-eight year old adult student living in Delphos, Kansas. In addition to her major in Women's Studies, she is also majoring in Accounting. During the sixties she was involved in the Women's, Civil Rights, Environmental, and Peace movements. She finds herself still concerned and involved with these same issues forty years later, and plans on combining her two majors into a career that focuses on such concerns. She has planned and presented a film series on Fair Trade as well as participated in a non-violence demonstration. Brooks thanks the Women's Studies program for her scholarship and says that it will help her to continue her studies and to take advantage of the many opportunities that the program offers.

Faculty News

Dr. L. Susan Williams presented "Outsiders, Outlaws, and Growing Up Tough: Boys and Social Control in the Country" at the American Society of Criminology's 58th Annual meeting in Los Angeles.

Dr. Torry Dickinson presented "The Break-Up of the Hetero-Sexist Household: The Reconfiguring of the Gendered World-System in the Early 21st Century" at the International Joan Smith Conference on Rethinking the Political Economy of Class, Race, Gender, and Nation at the University of Vermont.

Tara Baillargeon and colleagues published "Barriers to Moderate Physical Activity in Adult Lesbians," in *Women in Health*, 43 (1), 75-92, 2006.

Dr. Michaeline Chance-Reay was awarded the 2005-2006 Community First National Bank Award for Community Service.

Alumni News

Megan Marie (graduate certificate 2002) has recently taken a tenure track job at Malcom X College in Chicago.

Mickayla Fink (major 2004 & graduate certificate 2006) received the 2006 Presidential Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching and is currently working for the Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence.

Christopher Renner, currently earning a graduate certificate, was presented with the Edith L. Stunkel Good Government Award by the League of Women Voters, Riley Country Kansas, recognizing his advocacy for civil rights, particularly in regard to homosexuality, cultural harmony, and gender equality.

Lindsey Schwartz (major 2001) finished her MA in Women's Studies at San Diego State University in 2004.

Shannon Phillips (minor 2005) is currently at Drexel University seeking a MA in Family Therapy.

Kate Dooley (minor 2005) is currently a graduate student in Chemistry at the University of Michigan.

Kimberly Kerschen (minor 2005) is currently working as a Metabolic Support Dietitian at the Freeman Health System of Joplin.

Lory Stone (secondary major 2000) attended law school at Georgetown and is currently working as a lawyer in Washington D.C.

Sarah Rachael Coats (secondary major 2004) is working for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and will finish her MA in Criminal Justice at Boston University and plans to proceed to law school soon after.

Amanda Bareiss (graduate certificate 2006) is now a doctoral student at Arizona State University in Women's Studies.

Sarah McCoy-Harms (minor 2003) completed a master's degree in Women's and Gender Studies at Rutgers University in 2006. She is currently the Violence Prevention Coordinator at the University of Missouri, Kansas City.

Lana Eklund (McCarthy) (minor 2004) now owns Art and Soul Photography; she married Kevin Eklund in May of 2005.

Sompathana Phitsanoukanh (major 2006) is seeking a doctorate degree in American Studies at Washington State University. She presented a paper at the Annual Pacific Northwest American Studies Association.

**Women's
Studies 2007
graduates
at annual
end-of-year
celebration in
May.**



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What are you up to?

The K-State Women's Studies Program enjoys hearing from its alumni and former faculty. Feel free to copy this form and pass it on to others. Send it to Women's Studies Program, 3 Leasure Hall, Manhattan, Kansas 66506-3505 or e-mail us at womst@ksu.edu.

Name:

Degree and graduation year:

Address:

Phone:

E-mail Address:

Current Job:

Family News (marriages, births, etc.):

Other News:

Suggestions for the Newsletter: