Women and Creativity 2004: Examining the Past/Composing the Future
By Liz Finklea

After months of work, a great many meetings, proposals, applications, negotiations, and finger-crossing, the third decennial conference on women and creativity opened with welcoming remarks from Bernie Schultz, dean, WVU College of Creative Arts (CCA); Susan Hardesty, honorary chair of the conference planning committee and herself a musician; and Kay Goodwin, secretary, West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts. The keynote address by Libby Larsen, entitled "The Artist’s Search for Voice: Synthetic Structure or Organic Utterance," was part of the annual Women’s Studies residency. A diminutive figure on the stage of the Lyell B. Clay Concert Theatre, Larsen held the audience spellbound as she talked about her childhood exposure to many types of music, her decision to pursue a career as a musician, and some of the obstacles and successes she has encountered along the way. At a reception which followed, the audience had an opportunity to meet and talk to her, as well as to visit a new exhibit of works by Blanche Lazzell in the Mesaros Galleries. Lazzell was born in 1878 in Maidsville, West Virginia, and was a pivotal figure in the history of American modern art.

This is the first time that the conference has had a national focus, and participants came from California, Illinois, New York, New Jersey, West Virginia, and all the states surrounding West Virginia, as well as Canada. The conference logo, designed by Eve Faulkes, was much admired, and the posters became a hot item. Our student volunteers wore t-shirts sporting the logo, and one was heard to comment "Oh look, they’re hands!" Look again. What at first appears to be a waterily is, in fact, a composition of the hands of women of many different ages and ethnicities.

Concurrent sessions on Thursday and Friday were held at the Radisson and WVU’s Creative Arts Center (CAC). Music, theatre, and dance performance sessions were at the CAC, while the Radisson housed writers and poets on Thursday and presentations on historical communities on
Friday, in addition to sessions on music and art, displays from the Center for Women’s Studies and the CCA, the conference store, and a bookstore. “Bob, the Bus Driver” shuttled between the two locations to provide transportation for participants between sessions. At the conclusion of Thursday’s sessions, there was a writers’ reception at The Blue Moose Café, organized and hosted by Gail Adams, where writers and students could meet and talk in an informal atmosphere.

Thursday evening’s WVU Symphony Orchestra concert was dedicated to works by women composers, and conference participants joined the Morgantown community for an outstanding program which included the WVU Choral Union. Interim conductor David Tang shared the podium with Kathleen Shannon, director of the Choral Union, and David Wilcox, WVU’s band director. Libby Larsen introduced her piece, Still Life with Violin, which was performed with WVU faculty member Laura Kohayashi as soloist. We were also honored to have in the audience Alla Pavlova, whose Symphony #3 was on the program.

On Friday evening, WVU’s Division of Theatre and Dance gave a special performance for conference participants of A Voice of My Own, an adaptation of the play by Elinor Jones.

Unfortunately, the mini-tour of local galleries featured works by women artists in conjunction with the conference, including the Monongalia Arts Center, which displayed an exhibit from High Rocks Academy in Pocahontas County, West Virginia, as well as the “Creativity Quilt” composed of squares designed by conference participants.

Between 300 and 400 people took part in the conference, from high school juniors to grandmothers, and including faculty, students, practicing artists, performers, and lovers of the arts. Morgantown High School’s Chamber Music Ensemble entertained us at the Radisson on Thursday during the morning break. On Friday afternoon, Irina Smirnoff played piano jazz to send us on our way swinging. Sadly, Carla Daruda, who had been scheduled to perform “Wild Women Sing the Blues” on Friday had to cancel due to ill health.

The Center for Women’s Studies, the College of Creative Arts, WVU’s Council for Women’s Concerns, Arts Monongahela, Inc., Monongalia Arts Center, and many in the Morgantown community worked together to bring the conference to fruition. Financial support for the conference came from a grant from the West Virginia Humanities Council, from the deans of the College of Creative Arts and the Eberly College of Arts & Sciences, the Department of English, the Center for Women’s Studies, and from private donors through the good offices of Ruby de la Mata. Conference private donors are acknowledged in the “Thank You” section at the end of this newsletter.

As we wrap up this conference, we should look ahead to 2014. What does the next decade hold in store for creative women?

Partial funding for this conference came from the West Virginia Humanities Council (WVHC), a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.
Libby Larsen is Women’s Studies Resident

It was a great honor to welcome acclaimed composer Libby Larsen to our campus October 11th-14th as the Sixth Women’s Studies Resident in Honor of Judith Gold Stitzel. This is the first time that we have had a resident involved with the arts, and it provided a wonderful opportunity to strengthen ties between the College of Creative Arts and the Center for Women’s Studies. Janet Robbins, professor of music, coordinated the residency and worked tirelessly to organize the program in cooperation with Brad Bradshaw, Larsen’s assistant.

Bad weather and airline cancellations delayed Larsen’s arrival in Morgantown, so the Monday convocation for music students was canceled. However, after this inauspicious start, the rest of the week went well. Monday evening, the Center for Women’s Studies hosted a dinner at the Glasshouse Grille in Larsen’s honor. Tuesday’s schedule at the CAC included a rehearsal with the WVU Symphony Orchestra, a coffee with undergraduate music students sponsored by Sigma Alpha Iota international music fraternity, lunch with faculty and students from the CCA, a coaching session for a faculty member, and an informal discussion with music graduate students. On Wednesday, Larsen conducted a master class with all composition students; lunched with Council for Women’s Concerns’ members and women’s studies students, staff, and faculty associates; and met with music faculty.

That evening, she gave the keynote address that marked the opening of the Women and Creativity Conference. Her lecture generated enthusiastic responses from all those in attendance, including several comments along the line of “I didn’t know anything about music, but I really learned a lot from her!”

The culmination of her residency was the WVU Symphony Orchestra’s concert on Thursday evening. Janis-Rozena Peri, a faculty member in the Division of Music, commented that it would probably be several years before our students understood the opportunity they had this fall to meet and work with Larsen and Alla Pavolva to rehearse their compositions under their direction, and to perform with them in the audience.

Larsen’s visit was made possible by an award from the Meet the Composer Fund, as well as contributions from the CCA, Suzanne Temple, and donors to the Women’s Studies Residency Endowment.

For more information on Larsen and her work, please visit her web site at www.libbylarsen.com, where you can download short audio files of her compositions.

Residency Update

We wish to thank Suzanne Temple and Kazuya Hashiyama for their support for the Women’s Studies Residency in Honor of Judith Gold Stitzel from its inception in 1999 through 2004. After Dr. Stitzel’s retirement, Suzanne decided she wanted to “do something” to honor her favorite teacher. With her encouragement, we developed the residency concept and were privileged to host Ruthann Robson (1999), Cindy Katz (2000), Mari Lou Awikata (2001), Yvette Roudy (2002), Elizabeth Miller (2003), and Libby Larsen (2004). On occasion, Suzanne was able to join us from her home in Japan. Building on Suzanne’s gifts, we also established an endowment to support the residency on a more permanent basis. We deeply appreciate the support of those who have contributed to that endowment.

As Suzanne’s gifts come to an end, we are delighted to announce that Interim Dean Rudy Almasy has pledged funding for the 2005 residency. If you have suggestions of scholars and/or activists who would be good residents next fall, please send them to Barb Howe.

OTHER EVENTS

Fall Calendar of Events in Review

September 1: Women's Studies Faculty Associates meeting

September 7: New Women Faculty Potluck

September 28: Fireside Chat: Mindi Spencer and Julie Hicks Patricks (see description on page 4)

September 30-October 2: Annual Department of Foreign Languages Colloquium on "Constructing and Deconstructing Motherhood in Literature and Film." Co-sponsored by Center for Women’s Studies. Keynote address on "From Stella Dallas to Lila Lipscombe: Reading Real Motherhood through Reel Motherhood" by Alexandra Keller, film studies professor at Smith College

October 4: Silent Witness program co-sponsored by WVU School of Applied Social Sciences, Junior League of Fairmont, and Center for Women's Studies

October 11-13: Sixth Women Studies Residency

October 13-15: Women and Creativity Conference

October 16: Women's Studies Visiting Committee Meeting

October 18: Dr. Ancella R. Bickley, retired vice-president of academic affairs at West Virginia State College, and Dr. Rita Wicks-Nelson, professor emerita of psychology at Marshall University, "Desegregation of Schools in West Virginia as a Result of Brown v. Board of Education." Co-sponsored by WVU Brown v. Board of Education 50th Anniversary Celebration Steering Committee, Center for Women's Studies, Center for Black
Culture and Research, History Department, Eberly College of Arts and Sciences, Office of Social Justice, and Office of the Provost. This program was our contribution to WVU’s Diversity Week (October 18-22).

**December 6:** Consumer Advisory Board meeting for WVU National Center of Excellence in Women’s Health

**December 7-8:** 5th Annual Women’s Health Policy Conference. Co-sponsored by Center for Women’s Studies.

**December 8:** Applying for Jobs and Interviewing Tips discussion for women’s studies students with Millie Karlin and Barbara Evans Fleischauer

*Please Note:* We are committed to serving all those who attend our events who may have disabilities and adhere to the guidelines set forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Attendees with disabilities requiring accommodations should contact Barb Howe by phone at 304-293-2339 ext. 1155 or by email at barbara.howe@mail.wvu.edu two weeks prior to the event. Requests may be received up to the date of the event but may be denied because of insufficient time to plan and respond.

**Fall Fireside Chat on LGBT Support Systems**

On September 28th, Mindi Spencer and Julie Hicks Patrick of the WVU Department of Psychology presented a Fireside Chat on "A Different Kind of Family: Social Support in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Community."

Social support issues have not been examined extensively among older lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) adults, despite mounting evidence that these individuals do not have the same experience with aging as same-aged heterosexuals. Examining the social networks of LGBT adults is essential because in this group, social support may directly influence positive self-identity and successful aging.

This presentation described an ongoing research project at WVU, examining the influence of gender and sexual orientation on the social support networks of middle-aged and older adults. Spencer and Hicks argued for a distinct LGBT culture, discussing some of the unique issues surrounding aging as a member of a "sexual minority" and presenting their ideas for overcoming the challenges associated with conducting research in the LGBT community.

**Join Us To Celebrate Our Silver Anniversary!**

WVU’s Women’s Studies Program began in the fall of 1980, so it is time to mark this milestone anniversary. Please mark your calendars for Saturday, April 16th, at 7 p.m. when we will celebrate our silver anniversary with a gala reception and program at WVU’s E. Moore Hall. This will be part of WVU’s Honors Weekend events. We will recognize our students who are in this special 25th anniversary class of graduates and our scholarship and award recipients.

Please send any ideas you have for this special event to Barb Howe at barbara.howe@mail.wvu.edu. Also, if you were part of that group of "founding mothers and fathers" who worked so hard to get the program started before that fall of 1980, we’d particularly like to recognize your contributions. If you would like to share your stories in the spring Nexus and, perhaps, at the anniversary event, please contact Barb. And keep watching your mailboxes for invitations that will come closer to the event.

**CURRICULUM NEWS**

**Women’s Studies Spring Course Open to All**

Carroll Wetzel Wilkinson, women’s studies bibliographer and access services librarian at the Downtown Campus Library (DCL), will teach WMST 493G/MDS 493P: Women’s Studies Research in the Information Age in Room 136 of the DCL on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 10:20 a.m.

This course addresses the interlocking topics of women and information and is designed to help students be active members of the information society. Students will learn theory and develop applications to solve their information needs. They will acquire knowledge about the scope of the information environment, including proprietary databases, libraries and their contents, people resources, the Internet, and the invisible web.

**What Our Students Read This Fall:**

**WMST 170: Introduction to Women’s Studies**
Richardson, Laurel; Taylor, Verta; and Whittier, Nancy, eds. *Feminist Frontiers.* 6th ed.

**WMST 330/793: Feminist Theory**
Kolmar, Wendy and Bartkowski, Frances, eds. *Feminist Theory: A Reader.*
bell hooks. *Feminism Is For Everybody.*

**HIST 445: History of American Women**
Rogers, Mary Beth. *Barbara Jordan: American Hero.*
Sklar, Kathryn K., ed. *Women's Rights Emerges Within the Antislavery Movement, 1830-1870: A Brief History With Documents.*

**STUDENT NEWS**

**Congratulations to Our Graduates!**

**Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies:**
- May 2004: Robert P. Fanning, Judith A. Norton
- August 2004: Caridad Morales Nussa
- December 2004: Amy E. Moser

**Bachelor of Arts in Women's Studies**
- December 2004: Theresa L. Miller, Molly F. Rager

**Alumna and Majors News and Notes**

**Nina Riivald** (Women's Studies-directed Master of Arts in Liberal Studies, August 2003): "I miss graduate school and the amazing mentors that I had, but I am having an interesting time teaching English in New York City."

**Mary Wendekier** (BA, Women's Studies, May 2004): "Greetings from the WVU College of Law! Now that I am in law school, I find that my women's studies degree is more helpful than I had ever imagined it would be. Often, I bring the knowledge I gained from women's studies into the class discussion and hopefully persuade my classmates and professors to look at legal issues in a different way. I know that my degree in women's studies will play a continued role in my law school experience, and I am certain it will play a large part in my life and my career in law."

**Brooke Thomas** (BA, Political Science, Women’s Studies minor, May 2003): "Oh, Canada! After the re-election of George W. Bush, Reuters reported that hits to the Canadian immigration website shot up by 600 percent! I guess I was just ahead of the trend. I've been living in Ontario for over three months now. I am attending graduate school for comparative politics at McMaster University. I have a wonderful research assistantship, working with a professor in the political science department who is writing a book on minorities in politics. For my assistantship, I have been interviewing minority politicians and party leaders in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). I love grad school and never shy away from providing a good feminist critique of course materials. I hope everyone in the women's studies family is doing well. I miss you all."

**Elena Allison Corley** (BA, Women's Studies and German, expected in December 2005): "I am a native of Morgantown and graduated from Morgantown High School in 2000. During my senior year, I lived in Germany as an American exchange student. After I returned to the states, I enrolled at WVU and decided to study German. Readjusting back to American culture was very difficult and made me realize things about myself I had never known before. In June of 2003, I got married, and my husband and I are both dedicated to the labor organization movement as well as to social equality. He works at Valley Health Care Systems. I currently have two jobs. I work at the library for my work-study job and, on the weekends, I work at The Hobbits Closet. I just recently became a women's studies major, along with my German major. I hope to graduate in December 2005 with both majors. I am co-chair of Bisexual, Gay, and Lesbian Mountaineers, and I am president of the German Club. In my spare time, I like to sing, and I also enjoy quilting."

**Meet our New Students**

**New Majors**
- Jessi Kalvitis
- Sarah Downs
- Melissa Farnsworth
- Regina Yankie
- Anne Lewin
- Megan Marica
- Lauren Wallace
- Laura Trent
New Graduate Certificate Students: Luminitia Dragulescu, Katherine Silvester, Tracy Smith

FEM’s Fall Semester
By Molly Rager, FEM President

The Female Equality Movement of WVU has had an exciting and active Fall 2004 semester. This year, our new officers are Molly Rager, president; Annie Lewin, vice president; Kayla Kreitzer, secretary; Lauren Wallace, treasurer; and Roxana Bailey, publicity chairperson. The officers are all women’s studies majors and are an excellent and dedicated team of women who have worked very hard to accrue new membership and tackle challenging issues in order to raise awareness and promote women’s equality. FEM has experienced a rise in attendance and membership this year and has about 15-20 people who attend each weekly meeting.

FEM kicked off the school year with a pro-choice rally in front of the Morgantown Courthouse which included speakers and picketing. Also in September, FEM had several booths in the Mountainlair and participated in Get Carded, an annual event to promote awareness about sexual assault on campus. We also began taking donations for the Rape and Domestic Violence Information Center (RDVIC), including toiletries, paper products, and toys.

October was a busy month for FEM due to the fast-approaching election. FEM had five booths in the Mountainlair, including one for Love Your Body Day, a national day promoting a healthy body image. October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, so we also had a booth that dealt with dating and domestic violence. At the booths, the club sold pins, stickers, and candy to raise funds. We also attended and helped with the presentation of “Silent Witness,” a display and presentation to honor and remember victims of domestic violence.

Also in October, FEM went as a group to attend a presentation by documentary filmmaker Michael Moore at Fairmont State University. The event was part of his “slacker tour” and was energizing, fun, and informative. FEM also promoted voter registration and had a "Women for Kerry" booth in the Mountainlair on November 1st to inform women about George W. Bush’s war on women’s rights and equality.

FEM sponsored a benefit show on Sunday, November 15th, that we co-sponsored with BiGLM. The show was entitled “Invisible Victims” and was intended to promote awareness about dating violence in the gay and straight communities. The benefit was held at 123 Pleasant Street, and there were five bands and food. There was also a candlelight vigil on November 12th and a dating violence forum on November 15th.

FEM is planning several large projects for the spring, including a trip to High Rocks Academy for Girls, a project to make the campus safer for women, and
activities to promote improvements in women’s health care at WVU. Spring semester will be busy and exciting for FEM, as this semester has been. FEM is open to everyone, including men (we have a few regular male members this semester), and we meet every Tuesday evening at 5:30 in the Center for Women’s Studies’ lounge, 218 Eisland Hall.

**Get Out Her Vote, a National Feminist Campaign**

*By Elizabeth Harless and Anna Rachel Terman (BA, Women’s Studies, May 2004)*

*Feminist Majority Foundation Field Organizers*

The Get Out Her Vote (GOHV) campaign began early this year to encourage young women to get out to the polls for the 2004 presidential election. In the last such election, 22 million single women did not vote. The Feminist Majority Foundation, sponsor of the GOHV campaign, wanted to change this statistic and get young women involved in the political process. The Feminist Majority Foundation hosts many campaigns on college campuses nation-wide that deal with women’s issues, such as reproductive rights, global women’s rights, and gender equity.

This year in Morgantown, women came together to organize the GOHV campaign at WVU. Campaigns were also organized at Marshall University, Fairmont State University, and Shepherd University. Together, the Feminist Majority volunteers registered over 600 students in West Virginia. Efforts were also made to ensure registered voters would actually get out to the polls November 2nd. The WVU volunteers provided potential voters with election issue information and student voter rights. Many days were spent outside the Mountainlair in the rain and increasingly cold weather, and by November, the GOHV volunteers had reached hundreds of WVU students getting ready for their first voting experience in a presidential election.

In the end, young voter turn-out in battleground states increased to 64.4 percent as opposed to 51 percent in 2000. Women and men across the state and nation turned out in huge numbers to take part in the election. We still have many hurdles to overcome, but, thanks to all the GOHV volunteers in West Virginia, we did our part for democracy.

**KUDOS**

*Ruth Kershner named “Midwest District Health Education Professor of the Year”*

Ruth Kershner, adjunct assistant professor of women’s studies and visiting associate professor of community medicine at WVU, was named Midwest District AAHPERD College/University Health Education Professor of the Year this fall, one of only six professors to be recognized nationally by the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance


**Cathy Jasper Selected as October Staff of the Month**

Cathy Jasper, administrative associate and work-study supervisor for the Center for Women’s Studies, was selected as the October Staff of the Month by the WVU student Board of Governors. Jessi Kalvitis, a work-study student in the women’s studies office, nominated Cathy. According to Jessi, “Cathy is unfailingly polite and helpful, and makes every visitor feel welcomed and respected. She always goes the ‘extra mile’ when needed. Cathy’s dedication and incredible organizational skills make it all look easy. She takes on immense amounts of responsibility and never loses her calm. She always gets the job done--and done well.

“in addition to her work, above and beyond the call of duty, Cathy is always available with a friendly word on a bad day or a piece of information when chaos looms. She has been my guide to university history and trivia, office functions and chains of command in numerous departments, and the high points of the Morgantown cultural, creative, and political scene.

“Cathy Jasper is one of those unsung heroes of WVU. Almost every department has one, but often they do their jobs so well and with such good nature that nobody realizes how essential and amazing they are. I would like Cathy Jasper to be aware of how truly valued she is here at WVU, so I nominated her for this honor.”

**Katherine Bankole Receives Fellowship**

Katherine Bankole received the ANKH Award for Editorial Excellence for *Africalogical Perspectives*, a new journal under her editorship, at the 2004 Diop Conference.

**Laura Brady Named State Professor of the Year**

Laura Brady is the 2004 State Professor of the Year for West Virginia for the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. She oversees writing programs that serve some 8,000 undergraduate students per year, provides leadership for curriculum and program design, maintains and strengthens faculty development, and pursues support for undergraduate
writing. Brady is one of several WVU faculty associated with the Women’s Studies Program who have received this prestigious award!

**Publications and Conferences**


Robert Blobaum, Eberly Family Professor of History, presented “A Polish-Style Moral Panic: Deviance, Sexuality and Images of Jewish Criminality in Early Twentieth Century Poland” at the Social and Cultural Aspects of Sexuality in the 19th and 20th Centuries Conference in Warsaw, Poland.

Donley T. Studlar, Eberly Family Professor of Political Science, presented “Women and Westminster Compared” at the University of Ottawa, Canada, June 10-12, 2004.

Linda Vona-Davis, adjunct associate professor of biology and associate professor of surgery, helped three biology students present their research at scientific meetings in California, Washington, D.C., and Halifax, Nova Scotia. Reyna VanGilder, Randall Erik Peterson, and Kristina Lebedeva all worked in her lab and used that work as the basis for the presentations.

**Promotion and Tenure Decisions**

Katherine Aslestad - promoted to associate professor of history with tenure

Tracy Morris - promoted to professor of psychology

Nancy Nanney – promoted to professor of humanities at WVU-Parkersburg

Janet Robbins - promoted to professor of music

**CENTER PERSONNEL**

Heather Frederick has kept busy teaching Introduction to Women's Studies, Women in Movies, and Feminist Theory. She also advises the Female Equality Movement group on campus and supervises the women's studies graduate teaching assistants (GTAs). She is currently on the job market, searching for a job in political science. Next semester, Heather will teach Introduction to Women's Studies, Women and Movies, and Women in Politics.

Lindsey Blom is completing her master’s and doctoral degrees in counseling and sport and exercise psychology. She is working on her dissertation and counseling internship and will graduate in May 2005. She hopes to work as a performance enhancement consultant for a soccer club and/or teach psychology classes at a university, while working with athletes on sport psychology issues. She lives in Suncrest with her husband Tom and their puppy. Lindsey and Tom both enjoy playing and coaching soccer.

Melinda Graham is a first-year GTA who teaches a section of Introduction to Women’s Studies and assists with the Women in Movies course. Originally from Iowa, Mindy is a doctoral student in counseling psychology and has lived in West Virginia since 2003. Her research interest lies in the area of body image and eating disorders. As an undergraduate, she completed a research study on how different types of magazines (i.e., fashion and news) affect females’ perception of body image.

Molly Hatcher is from Huntington, West Virginia. She received her BA degree in English from WVU in 1999 and her JD degree from WVU in 2002. She is currently a GTA, teaching two sections of Introduction to Women's Studies. Molly is also pursuing a MA in English and intends to obtain a graduate certificate in women’s studies, too. In the past, she has been involved in gender and feminism studies at the undergraduate and professional level, taking courses on the women's suffrage movement in Britain, the current situation of women in Mexico, and the nexus between gender and law. Molly recently served for a year on the board of directors of WV FREE, a coalition working to promote family planning and protect reproductive freedom for all women in West Virginia. She is also a member of the National Lawyers Guild, a group consisting of lawyers, law students, legal workers, and jailhouse lawyers of America whose mission is to promote social justice and protect individuals' civil rights and liberties in the face of persistent attacks upon them.

Crystal Rofahl is a graduate of the University of Arkansas-Little Rock (UALR), where she majored in psychology and minored in gender studies. During her time at UALR, she participated in research at the Complex Brain Function Laboratories at the Arkansas Children's Hospital and the Biobehavioral Laboratory at the university. At the University Biobehavioral Laboratory, she was the team leader for a research project that dealt with the investigation of the interaction of BMI, daytime sleepiness, and gender differences. As a result of this research, she presented “The Relationship Between Sleepiness and Obesity in a Non-clinical Population” at the 2004 International Conference of Professional Sleep Societies. Along with her studies and research, she provided intervention and continuing support services to survivors of sexual assault at the Family Service Agency Sexual Assault Center. She had also worked as an on-call volunteer for crisis intervention in the emergency rooms in Arkansas. Currently, she is working toward a graduate degree in counseling at WVU, where she is a GTA for the Center for Women's Studies. She is working on a thesis on the psycho-physiological aspects of female sexual dysfunction.
Left to right: Molly Hatcher, Crystal Rofkahr, Heather Frederick, Lindsey Blom, Mindy Graham

Cathy Jasper, our administrative associate, manages the office, and budget, and supervises the work-studies. She is a member of the Martin Luther King, Jr., commemoration committee, a United Way representative, and a volunteer for the Council for Women's Concerns.

Liz Finklea is a member of the Council for Women's Concerns and works with Women Across Cultures, a program of the WVU Office of International Students & Scholars. She was the Women and Creativity Conference coordinator and is a part-time employee at the Center for Women's Studies this semester.

Will Karigomba is a PhD candidate in geography and a GTA in geology. He was our web administrator until the end of October. Thanks, Will, for your service!

Paul Rutledge joined our staff in mid-October as the web administrator. Paul is a MA candidate in the Department of Political Science and is in his second year at WVU. Originally from Johnstown, Pennsylvania, Paul received his BA in political science from the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown in 2003. Paul is applying to numerous PhD programs in political science and aspires to teach political science at the university level.

Our work-study students are Jessi Kalvitis, a junior women's studies and psychology major from Romney, West Virginia; Alexa Mitchell, a first-year pre-physical therapy major from Fairmont, West Virginia; Nicole Raach, a senior economics major from Inwood, West Virginia; Molly Rager, a senior women's studies major from Parkersburg, West Virginia; and Kelly DeLucy, a first-year photography major from Madison Township, Pennsylvania. The office would not function without their cheerful cooperation!

Women's Studies Visiting Committee Members

Joan C. Browning, Lewisburg, W.Va., chair
Jayne A. Armstrong, Wilmington, Del.
Mildred T. Bright, Morgantown, W.Va.
Leslie Clay, Charleston, W.Va.
Barbara Evans Fleischauer, Morgantown, W.Va.
Cheryle Hall, Charleston, W.Va.
Millie Karlin, Morgantown, W.Va.
Susan E. Kelley, Orlando, Fla.
A. B. Maloy, Boston, Mass.

We want to offer a special thanks to Jane Yohe Cooley and Sharon Hurt Davidson, two of the original members of our visiting committee who resigned from the committee this year. At the same time, we welcome our newest members, Cheryle Hall and A.B. Maloy.

Director's Corner

By Barb Howe

I need to begin by thanking Dr. Katherine Karraker, interim director of the Center for Women's Studies last spring, as well as Dean M. Duane Nellis, Dr. Elizabeth Engelhardt, Cathy Jasper, the graduate assistants and work-study students, and the women's studies faculty associates for allowing me to take a sabbatical last spring. The relative isolation of a sabbatical, extended to include a 10-day trip to China for a conference on women and development, was a wonderful treat that was only possible by others' willingness to do my job for me.

This fall, the students in my History of American Women class tried to figure out the relationships between all the reform movements that women participated in during the early nineteenth century. I asked them to draw the relationships between these groups on the blackboard and then explain them to the group. As I think back to those explanations, I could easily substitute all the activities of the Center for Women's Studies for those reform movements and the students' drawings for how others might see our work. The part you see as most critical may
be less relevant to someone else, but all are intertwined, at least within the confines of 218 Eisland Hall.

Those activities this fall focused on the Women and Creativity Conference and the residency with Libby Larsen. I will surely omit someone if I try to highlight anyone here other than Liz Finklea as conference coordinator and Janet Robbins as the residency coordinator. I lost track of the names of all the students who volunteered throughout the conference. I do know that, every time we needed someone to do something, there was a student wearing a conference t-shirt, eager to help.

In addition, the WVU National Center of Excellence in Women's Health (COEWH) is linked to the Women's Health Policy conference in Morgantown for the first time December 7th-8th. And now, WVU is linked to the other National Centers of Excellence in Women's Health across the country, in new ways to organizations around the state who are interested in women's health, and to the WVU Extension Service through Elaine Bowen, my co-chair on the COEWH outreach committee.

On campus and in the community, the Center for Women's Studies is part of the Council for Women's Concerns, Social Justice Council, Safe Zone Program, Council on Sexual Orientation, Morgantown NO, and Community Coalition for Social Justice. At the national level, I chair the Policy Committee of the National Women's Studies Association (NWSA) and continue to serve as co-chair of the Program Administration and Development Committee of NWSA, which allows me a seat on the Governing Council with my co-chair, Catherine Orr of Beloit College, and allows me to work with Helen Bannan and Barbara Scott Winkler. Frequently, my program administration colleagues will say "WVU's program is our model," and all of you who have contributed to our success share should enjoy those compliments.

Our students are extraordinarily adept at networking across the campus. Women's studies students led the Get Out Her Vote campaign here. FEM members easily take their energetic activism at Tuesday evening meetings into equally energetic 3-hour feminist theory classes after a 10-minute break. Sometimes, listening from my office, it's hard to tell when the FEM meeting ends and the class begins! I know the future is in good hands when my women's history students tell me that, had they lived during World War I, they would have been standing with Alice Paul, one of the most militant of the suffrage leaders, when she picketed the White House and went to jail for her beliefs.

We are linked to even more students this year than ever in the past! The number of our majors and graduate certificate students has grown substantially, as you can see from the photos elsewhere in this issue. With the growth in enrollment at WVU, we have had to respond with a large enrollment course that contributes to the university's Liberal Studies Program. Dr. Engelhardt piloted a Women in Movies course last spring with 50 students, and, this year, Heather Frederick has 250 students in that course each semester with the assistance of one of our GTAs. Next spring, we are offering courses in Women in International Development; Women, Religion, and Spirituality; Women's Studies Research in the Information Age; Gender and Violence; and the First Wave of Feminism, among others, that should attract even more new students to our program.

Our visiting committee members and our donors are critical to our success. Our visiting committee members are working on ways to better help our students, and their fall meeting was as enthusiastic as any FEM meeting.

Finally, we are in the process of searching for a tenure-track faculty member to replace Dr. Engelhardt. I hope that we can introduce this new colleague to you in our spring Nexus and look forward to having her on campus in August. Faculty associates on the search committee and our other committees volunteer their time to women's studies in addition to their work for their own units. Our success today is due, in large measure, to their efforts over the years, and I am grateful for their support.

**WVU HAS NEW NATIONAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN WOMEN'S HEALTH**

The WVU Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center is now a National Center of Excellence in Women's Health (COEWH). Under the leadership of COEWH director Dr. Barbara Ducatman, with assistance from Dr. Ann Chester and grant writer Alfreda Dempkowski, an amazing group of people cooperated to submit an application to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services's Office on Women's Health on a month's notice! It is a real privilege for the Center for Women's Studies to be involved in this effort and to expand our networks throughout WVU and the state in this important endeavor.

The 2004 request for proposals emphasized benefiting women in rural areas and focusing on problems like diabetes, obesity, and heart disease, all of which are critical problems for West Virginia women. We felt the proposal was written with us in mind. The COEWH is now open in space that used to be the ob/gyn clinic of the Physician Office Center.

The goal of the COEWH, according to Dr. Ducatman, is "to provide comprehensive health care for women, to promote research in women's health issues, to educate our new generation of health care providers to understand and treat women's special health care needs, to develop future women leaders in academic health care, and to reach out to improve the health and well-being of West Virginia women . . . and ultimately all West Virginians."

The five interrelated parts of the COEWH are clinical care, research, professional education, leadership
development, and community outreach. Barb Howe is the community outreach co-chair with Elaine Bowen and Pat Meadows of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources. The three are co-chairing a Consumer Advisory Board that met for the first time on December 6th. Many women’s studies faculty associates are involved throughout this project, and there will be opportunities for far more involvement as our plans progress. Federal funding will provide minimal support for this endeavor for four years, so Drs. Ducatman and Chester are already working on plans to secure continued funding for the COEWH.

To learn more about this exciting initiative, please visit the COEWH web site at www.hsc.wvu.edu/whec/.

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Stitzel Endowment for Faculty

Applications are now available in 218 Eiesland and on our web site for the Judith Gold Stitzel Endowment for Excellence in Women’s Studies Teaching and Learning. The goals are 1) to make permanently available to the university community, and through that community to West Virginia citizens, the new and expanding knowledge which women’s studies scholarship creates; and 2) to institutionalize women’s studies knowledge into the fabric of teaching at WVU. Therefore, endowment resources are used to recognize, support, and strengthen faculty members in their work as educators, particularly those on the WVU Morgantown campus, but also applicants and those invited or recruited to WVU from other institutions. In all cases, teaching and learning activities supported by this endowment must be designed to increase women’s studies knowledge at WVU.

Eligible activities include, but are not limited to, designing new courses and reconceptualizing existing courses and course modules; instruction may be in traditional classroom settings or via electronic media. Project proposals which do not directly affect student learning, e.g., faculty curriculum workshops, are eligible when they support the goals of the endowment. One proposal will be funded for a maximum amount of $4,000.

Information about this endowment is available on our web site at www.as.wvu.edu/wmst/app_stitzel.htm.

Applications will be due February 1, 2005, with funds to be available on May 16, 2005.

Scholarships, Awards, and Development Funds

Applications will be available in January for the:
- Carrie Koeterius Scholarship for Returning Women Students
- Sallie Lowther Norris Showalter Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Related Disciplines
- Winifred South Knutti Graduate Scholarship in Women’s Studies
- Velma Miller/West Virginia Alliance for Women's Studies Graduate Scholar Award

Further information is available at www.as.wvu.edu/wmst/students.htm.

Applications to the Judy Mossburg Fund for Student, Faculty, and Staff Development and Women’s Studies Difference Fund may be submitted at any time. Details are at www.as.wvu.edu/wmst/financial_assistance.htm.

The Joy of Giving

By Deborah Miller, J.D., Director of Gift Planning, WVU Foundation

A multitude of challenges remain for women in our nation and around the world. The Women’s Studies Program continues its efforts to educate many about these past, current, and future challenges. Choosing to aid this effort can be a personally rewarding way to assure ongoing progress.

A worthwhile option is to explore the benefits of an income-producing gift. Whether you are in your 40s or your 80s, there’s a gift arrangement to suit your needs.

Basically, you would transfer at least $25,000 (in cash, stocks, bonds or mutual funds) to the WVU Foundation in exchange for retirement income for life. You would also receive an income tax deduction at the time of the transfer. Using appreciated assets always makes good sense - the income payout is based on 100 percent of the value of the assets, and no capital gain taxes are owed when the gift is made.

What can such a gift accomplish? It’s your choice! The special needs of the Women’s Studies Program include funds for graduate student research and teaching, discretionary program support, and additional funds for the Residency Endowment or the Stitzel Endowment for Excellence in Women’s Studies Teaching and Learning.

Information about how this gift arrangement works is readily available. The www.wvuf.org website is a good place to start. Click on “Giving to WVU” and then “How You Can Give” to learn about income-producing gifts. To see an illustration of the actual financial and charitable benefits, contact me at 800-847-3856 or at dmiller@wvuf.org. A personalized report can be prepared for you in less than five minutes. This support can ensure that the unique challenges facing women in our world today will always receive special attention through the Women’s Studies Program!
Thank you, Friends of Women's Studies!

Gifts totaling $12,991.00 were received from May 1, 2004, through November 12, 2004, for general program support, scholarship and award endowments or funds, and special events like the Women and Creativity Conference. Persons honored and families of those honored by memorial gifts are apprised of gifts that honor them or loved ones. *IMO* = in memory of, *IHO* = in honor of, *GIK* = gift in kind. We do our best to ensure the accuracy of these lists, but, if we have omitted your contribution, please contact Cathy Jasper at cj Jasper2@wvu.edu or 293-2339 ext. 1150.

**Women's Studies Program Support**

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**Judith Gold Stitzel Endowment for Excellence in Women's Studies Teaching and Learning**

Laura Brady
Bonnie McBee Fisher
Ivan Gold
Rosemary and Theodore E. Gram
Judith and Robert Stitzel*
Barbara and Arthur Weldon

*Omitted from the Spring 2004 Nexus in error.

**Women and Creativity Conference**

T. Edward Blume
Mildred T. Bright
Susan C. Capelle
Ruby De La Mata
Eleanor Doyle
C. Andrew and Cynthia Heiskell
Roger E. King
Ruth Ann and Joseph V. Panepinto
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**Women's Studies Residency Endowment**

Suzanne Temple

**Velma Miller Graduate Scholar Award**

Mildred T. and George Bright IMO Velma Miller

**Women's Studies General Scholarships Fund**

Marian Jensen

**Sallie Lowther Norris Showalter Award**

Nancy K. DeBrier IMO Blanche H. Kuykendall

**Library Endowment for Women's Studies**

Deborah L. McHenry