High Heels and High Hopes
Womens Studies at 30

Women from around the country gathered in Morgantown this September for a reunion and celebration of the 30th anniversary of women's studies at WVU. Former and current directors, staff, students, and faculty toured campus, attended classes, and shared their experiences at the Center for Women's Studies. The participants were given plenty of opportunities to catch up with and meet new colleagues and friends during their three day visit. Judy Wilkinson, member of the WMST visiting committee, hosted a reception for them on Sunday to welcome them to Morgantown. The visitors also attended women's studies classes. Elizabeth Engelhardt, the first tenure-track faculty member in women's studies at WVU, gave a lecture in a women's studies class on food, asking students to think about the ethnic and gendered aspects of the role and importance of food in our lives.

One of the highlights of the reunion was the panel, “High Heels and High Hopes: WMST at 30”. Each of the nine panelists shared their experiences, challenges, and transformative moments in women’s studies. The panel was introduced by Provost Michele Wheatly who shared her views about the generational significance of change brought about by the advancement of women's and gender studies.

Judith Gold Stitzel, founding director of women studies, highlighted some of the developments during her 20 years of leadership, from her first interview with the Dean of Arts and Sciences to interactions with students negotiating their feminist consciousness. Several other interim directors at the Center also spoke. Jeanne Gerlach, Associate Vice President and Dean of the College of Education and Health Professions at the University of Texas-Arlington, discussed how her career has been shaped by strong role models who contributed to advancements for women in higher education.

As an historian, Lillian Waugh reflected on her and other women’s struggles (and successes) in education, employment, and life in general. Chris Weiss Daugherty continues to play an important role as (Cont on page 3)
What’s in a name? Names are an important part of our identity and ‘face’ to the world. We work for and belong to Institutions and organizations which display their names as icons on the landscape. Likewise, names are an important part of our history and ancestry. Our children are named after relatives and in some societies names have meanings that are part of their cultural heritage. In short, names reflect and shape our identity, history, and relevance in society.

Recent conversations among people associated with the Center for Women’s Studies have addressed the topic of who we are and what we do. In these conversations, people associated with the Center have discussed the accomplishments and meaning of women’s studies at WVU and as a broader social movement. The 30th anniversary celebration provides an opportunity to reflect on the past, but also to acknowledge how this program has changed from a unit with a small number of course offerings to an impressive array of courses in law, public relations, health, and other diverse fields; from a program where students could earn a certificate, to a program that offers a major, minor, and graduate certificate. The research potential of women’s studies at WVU was evident in the recent awarding of the National Science Foundation ADVANCE grant to promote diversity in the STEM fields.

These developments in women’s studies at WVU parallel important changes in the field. We have broadened our research and teaching to look beyond the binary categories of masculinity and femininity to incorporate, for example, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender studies. The increased emphasis on intersectionality in our field also incorporates the role of race, class, age, disability and other social categories in analyses of power relations and roles in society. These additions reflect a move towards a more inclusive field of study, with a growing awareness of the breadth and diversity of gender in our lives.

Conversations about identity and change in women’s studies are taking place around the country. Swarthmore recently renamed its Women’s and Gender Studies Program to Gender and Sexuality Studies, the Gender Studies Program at the University of Arizona is housed in the School of Social Transformation, and the Department of Feminist Studies at the University of Minnesota changed its name to Gender, Women & Sexuality Studies. These names reflect the diversity and relevance of women’s, gender, feminist, and sexuality studies in the academy and society as a whole.

We are exploring the possibility of changing the name of the Center for Women’s Studies to reflect these changes in the field. I invite you to engage with and think about the identity and relevance of women’s and gender studies in your work and life. Read through our accomplishments and get involved in our programs. Thank you for supporting the Center!
High Heels and High Hopes cont.

an activist and an advocate for women in employment and economic change. She brought a ‘real world’ perspective to the Center during the early 1990s with an emphasis on economic development and the internationalization of women’s and gender studies.

Helen Bannan, director of the center in the mid 1990s, spoke about her experiences during a period when this field was just becoming institutionalized. Janice Spleth, interim director of the Center in 2009 has been a strong supporter of the Center through its many activities with the humanities and African women writers. Suronda Gonzalez brought a unique perspective to the panel as an alumna of WVU. She benefitted from and advanced her career around many of her experiences in women’s studies, currently working in a global issues initiative at SUNY Binghamton.

Finally, Cathy Jasper, administrative associate at the Center, wrapped up the evening with stories of people, events, and the ‘family’ she is a part of at WVU. As she stated, women’s studies has changed her, and she has certainly contributed to women’s studies at WVU. In sum, the 30th reunion was a time to reflect, but also to look ahead to the future teaching of this exciting field of research, activism, and service. Judith Stitzel’s words fittingly describe the evening. “One of the most important themes in women’s studies is the breaking of silence through the courage of women’s voices.” And we heard those voices that September evening.
Womens Studies Residency

2011 Women’s Studies Residency

The Center for Women’s Studies is proud to announce the 2011 women’s studies resident, Dr. Eliot, Associate Professor in the Department of Neuroscience at the Chicago Medical School. The residency program started in 1999 as an opportunity for members of the women’s studies community to learn from and interact with visiting scholars and activists. This program was initiated through the generosity of Suzanne Temple and more recently Carrie Koeturius, who support the residency in honor of Dr. Judith Stitzel, founding director of women’s studies at WVU.

Eliot received her PhD in Physiology and Cellular Biophysics from Columbia University in 1991. From 1991 to 1994, she trained as a Postdoctoral Fellow at Baylor College of Medicine, working on the mechanisms of calcium influx in hippocampal neurons. She started working at the Chicago Medical School in 1998 where she directs the Interdepartmental PhD Program in Neuroscience.

Dr. Eliot's research bridges the social and physical sciences in her ground breaking work on gender stereotypes and the brain. She analyzes the differences in boys and girls, arguing that infant brains develop in what begin as small differences at birth and become augmented over time, as parents and teachers, and society as a whole, reinforce gender stereotypes. By realizing how sex differences emerge, Eliot provides parents and teachers ways to help close the gaps between girls and boys.

Her publications include more than 50 works on topics in neuroscience, biophysics, and biomedical research ethics. Eliot's first book on gender differences and the brain was *What's Going on in There? How the Brain and Mind Develop in the First Five Years of Life* (Bantam, 2000). Her newest book is *Pink Brain, Blue Brain: How Small Difference Grow into Troublesome Gaps and What We Can Do About It* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2009).

The visit by Dr. Eliot will include classroom visits, informal meetings with faculty and students, and a public lecture. She will be on campus from Feb. 14-18th, 2011. Please visit our website (http://wmst.wvu.edu/) for more information about this and other events.

Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance Update

WVU's Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance began the fall semester with an event organized around the theme of body image awareness. “Love Your Body Day” is an annual campaign sponsored by the National Organization of Women Foundation to confront beauty standards in the mass media, including the marginalization and token presence of women of color and overweight/obese women. Racial and sexual stereotypes in the media can have profoundly negative effects on the real lives of women. Women who aren’t white are often expected to conform to white beauty standards for better opportunities.

Studies show, for instance, that when controlling for test scores and grades, overweight students are less likely than other men and women to receive funding for college or to be accepted by the more competitive universities.

On October 11, FMLA held a public viewing of *Hairspray*, featuring an overweight female protagonist who joins with the African American community to fight for inclusion in a dancing competition. Male and female students from a wide range of academic backgrounds attended the event and contributed to efforts to challenge media stereotypes.

FMLA is currently joining with the theater department to organize the annual V-DAY production. Eve Ensler’s “The Vagina Monologues,” will be performed on February 12-14, 2011 at the Creative Arts Center. Auditions for the production were held in November and practice will begin this semester. All community members are encouraged to get involved in this and other FMLA activities. For more information, email wvufmla@gmail.com. Also, join WVU FMLA's page on facebook.

on gender inequities. Based on research findings, the investigators seek to promote inclusivity and faculty equity. WVU has seen recent success in recruitment of women assistant professors; however, there are fewer women at the associate and full professor levels than nationally. In addition to supporting recruitment successes, WVU PRIDE aims to foster an inclusive campus climate to support women’s career advancement. Activities will include programming for individual faculty members, as well as development of institutional policies. The lynchpin is a focus on department-level transformation, which has been identified as imperative for the achievement of the overall ADVANCE goals. The first program was a November 30 work-life balance workshop developed by the Association for Women in Science (AWIS). The event was co-hosted by WVU PRIDE, the AWIS WV Chapter, and the Office of the Provost.

As co-principal investigator, I worked for 18 months with a team of faculty and administrators to develop the proposal. Among many significant contributions, I conducted an analysis of programming at ADVANCE institutions, and a review of the literature arising from these efforts. My expertise in women’s studies was an asset because I could synthesize information from the social sciences, the humanities, and the natural sciences. During the five-year award period, I will engage in program management and research activities, such as preparing publications and analyzing data. Two of the other four principal and co-principal investigators are women’s studies faculty associates (Melissa Latimer, associate professor and chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, and Leslie Tower, associate professor of social work and public administration).

During the first year, Dr. Latimer will be the interim director for the WVU ADVANCE Center, with myself and Katie Stores, PhD, grant development officer, acting as interim assistant directors.

The project team includes: President James Clements; Provost Michele Wheatley; Professor Fred King, Eberly’s associate dean of research and graduate studies; Marjorie Darrah, associate professor of mathematics; Maura McLaughlin, assistant professor of physics; Professor Warren Myers, associate dean for academic affairs in the College of Engineering and Mineral Resources; James Nolan, associate professor of sociology and anthropology; and Michelle Withers, assistant professor of biology. Ann Oberhauser, professor of geography and director of the Center for Women’s Studies, will serve on the Internal Advisory Board.

*Beyond Bias and Barriers: Fulfilling the Potential of Women in Academic Science and Engineering and Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (2007)*
**WMST Faculty Associates**

**Katherine Aaslestad,** associate professor of history, wrote a book chapter on gender roles in Republican Hamburg in Gender, War and Politics (2010) and co-organized a conference at UNC Chapel Hill in May 2007. She also published a book chapter on Napoleonic warfare in Northern Europe in War in the Age of Revolution, 1775-1815 (2010).

**Cari Carpenter,** assistant professor of English, published Selected Writings of Victoria Woodhull: Suffrage, Free Love, and Eugenics with the University of Nebraska Press (2010).

**Robert Blobaum,** professor of history, presented a paper on women and the Warsaw home front during the First World War for the panel Identities, Bodies and Symbolic Capital: Discourse and Experience in 19th and 20th-Century Poland at the 2010 Convention of the American Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies in Los Angeles.

**Amy Gentzler,** assistant professor of psychology, Ann Oberhauser, professor of geography, and David Westerman, assistant professor of communication studies, published an article on college students’ use of electronic communication with parents in Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking.

Kristina Hash, associate professor of social work, is the new director of the Gerontontology Certificate Program in the Beatrice Ruth Burgess Center for West Virginia Families and Communities in the WVU Division of Social Work.

**Hollee Schwartz Temple,** director of legal reasoning, research & writing at the WVU College of Law, focuses her research on work/life balance. The regular work/life columnist for the ABA Journal, the nation’s premiere lawyer magazine, Temple also blogs about work/life issues at http://thenewperfect.com/blog. Her forthcoming book, Good Enough is the New Perfect: Finding Happiness and Success in Modern Motherhood, will be released by Harlequin Nonfiction in April 2011.

**Leslie Tower,** associate professor of social work, published a paper on the effect of rurality and gender on stroke awareness of adults in West Virginia in the Journal of Health and Human Services Administration, and co-authored a paper on the development and evaluation of online learning modules in the social environment courses in the Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment.

**Matt Vester,** associate professor of history, delivered a paper on gender, kinship and politics in the Vallée d’Aoste at the Western Society for French History annual meeting in Boulder CO, October, 2009.

**Linda Vona-Davis,** associate professor of surgery and member of the WVU Breast Cancer Research Program at the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center, presented a poster on breast cancer pathology in a rural Appalachian population at the Third AACR Conference on The Science of Cancer Health Disparities.

**Carroll Wilkinson,** director of instruction and information literacy and women’s studies bibliographer, Wise Library, participated in the Association of College and Research Libraries’ Assessment Immersion Program in Nashville, Tennessee. This program is designed to provide support in the areas of classroom and program assessment for academic librarians. Carroll was selected to participate in this program which will benefit her work with women’s studies courses on assessment of information literacy skills.

**Alumni News**

**Jacklyn (Jaci) Gonzales** (BA women’s studies, 2006) graduated from WVU School of Law in May 2010. She is working as an attorney for Mountain State Justice in Charleston, WV.

**Heather Hartley** (certificate in women’s studies, 1993), a native West Virginian poet, is Paris editor of Tin House magazine and professor at the American University of Paris. She visited WVU this fall for a poetry reading from her books, “Knock Knock” published by Carnegie Mellon University Press and “Food and Booze” published by Tin House.

**Amy Pratt** (graduate certificate in women’s studies, 2006) is a senior consultant with Non-Profit Leadership, a development organization based in Atlanta that assists organizations in their strategic planning and fundraising efforts.

**Jillian Schedneck** (graduate certificate in women’s studies, 2006) is currently enrolled in a PhD program in Gender Studies at the University of Adelaide in South Australia. She won the Adelaide Scholarship International to pursue her dissertation project titled “Gendered Modernities: Representations, Performances and Experiences of Young Emirati Women.”

**Anna Rachel Terman** (BA psychology and women’s studies, 2004) is a PhD candidate working toward a dual degree in Women’s Studies and Rural Sociology.
Ermira Babamusta (PhD candidate in political science) presented “Gender and Development in the Balkans: Perspectives from Albania” at the Fall 2010 Women’s Studies 30th Lecture Series. Originally from Albania, Babamusta is engaged in academic and community efforts to improve the political and economic situation for people of Kosovo and Albania. Her research was funded by the Judy Mossburg Development Grant in women’s studies.

Mousumi Banikya-Leaseburg MPH student in community medicine, conducted research on reproductive health in rural Honduras as part of her program. The Judy Mossburg Grant partially supported her work in Honduras.

Laurel Beatty (graduate student in secondary education) worked with Women’s Emancipation & Development Agency in Tanzania during summer 2009 as part of the Amizade Global Service and Learning Program. Through this project, Beatty surveyed African women about support for AIDS and other gender rights. “It was fascinating yet heartbreaking to listen to the stories of these women. I have never seen such optimistic and strong women and girls in my life.” Beatty is the 2010 recipient of the Sallie Lowther Norris Showalter Award for Excellence in Mathematics and other Disciplines.

Erica Deibel (WMST minor and public relations major) is the President of the Public Relations Student Society of America in the P.I. Reed School of Journalism. She is also active in the Spanish Club and plans to graduate in May 2010.

Alyssa Fairhurst (women’s studies minor) is a member of WVU’s African Drum and Dance Ensemble. The ensemble involves traditional dancing and drumming from Ghana and other African cultures.

Arnita Sitasari (PhD student in political science) co-authored “Support for Women Officeholders in a Non-Arab Islamic Democracy: The Case of Indonesia,” in the Australian Journal of Political Science, 2010 with two political science professors.

Meg Workman (WMST minor and public relations major) has an online blog about campus life and events, through “hercampus.com”.

Molly Wilson (majors in women’s studies, philosophy, and political science) was a finalist for the Ms. Mountaineer at WVU. Finalists are chosen based on their leadership, community activities and academic performance. Molly is also the president of the Mortar Board Senior Honorary and is a student in the Honors College.
What can be learned from two women's studies programs in two states in one region? Students and faculty from Ohio University and West Virginia University learned a lot from each other as they gathered in Athens, Ohio this fall to develop an Appalachian exchange. Judith Grant and Ann Oberhauser, directors of the women's and gender studies programs at OU and WVU respectively, were joined by students and faculty for several events during their two day visit. The initiative culminated in a seminar where participants talked about women's studies curriculum, outreach, fundraising strategies, and mentoring activities.

The WVU visitors were also invited to attend women's studies classes and meet with the Future Women of Appalachia student organization. In addition to their common backgrounds, the two programs discovered differences in their programs. OU, for instance, has a Women's Center with resources and outreach programs that assist faculty, students and staff at their institution. Women's studies at WVU does not face budget cuts like those in Ohio and has benefitted from a strong network of support to help fund their program.

Julie Goldberg, a participating WVU student, appreciated “being able to explore another university that has both a women's and gender studies program and a women's center.” The trip was funded through the Alma & Claude Rowe Fund for Excellence Through Equity which supports initiatives related to education in Appalachia.

The Centers are planning future activities for the spring semester when a group of faculty and students from OU will visit WVU.