As we begin a new academic year, Women’s Studies has much to be proud of and yet a lot of work to do to develop and fulfill our vision as a national leader in the study of women, gender, and sexuality. Last spring we hosted a visit by Professor Robyn Wiegman, the Director of Women’s Studies at Duke University. Prof. Wiegman presented a lecture, taught our graduate capstone seminar, and led a discussion of our Advisory Board about the role and place of Women’s Studies in the academy. The discussion, and subsequent discussions, generated numerous thought provoking questions and ideas about our focus and niche, as well as our ability to provide leadership in undergraduate and graduate education in women’s and gender studies. Prof. Wiegman’s observations and comments reinforced our view that we are among the national leaders in Women’s Studies, with an academically strong, interdisciplinary major and an up to date international focus. In discussing the possibility of a masters degree program, we were challenged to define our niche or specialty in ways that complement what our university has to offer and serves our region and beyond. We intend to return to these issues as the Board and core faculty meet in the coming months.

I begin my director’s report with an update on our faculty ranks. We are most pleased to welcome Professor Hannah Britton, who comes to us from Syracuse University by way of Mississippi State University. (A bio of Hannah appears in this newsletter.) Professor Lorraine Bayard de Volo earned tenure and promotion to Associate Professor this past year. Gwynne Jenkins has unfortunately left KU in order to remain nearer her family on the East Coast, and we wish her the best. However, we will be hiring a tenure-track joint appointment with American Studies in African American Race and Gender. We look forward to inviting three exciting younger scholars to campus this late fall or winter to make campus visits and interview for this position.

We have three graduate teaching assistants with us this year. Ailecia Ruscin returns to teach WS 201, our introductory course, along with Milton Wendland, who is new to Women’s Studies. Both are PhD students in American Studies and graduate certificate students in Women’s Studies. Carly Hayden Foster returns to assist in a new course; she is finishing her PhD in Political Science and already holds a graduate certificate from our program.

A new project for Women’s Studies is upgrading the website to include more of our students’ work. We have new pages on service learning projects, research done in the capstone WS 601 seminar, and information about and research by our graduate certificate students. We are very proud of the quality of the research and service that our students are doing, and we hope you have a chance to surf over to www.ku.edu/~wsku to see what they are up to.

Another new project for Women’s Studies this year is a new course on Women and the Legislative Process, taught by the Honorable Dr. Barbara Ballard, a longtime member of the Kansas House and Associate Director for Outreach at the Robert J. Dole Institute for Politics. The course immediately filled to capacity, and is described later in this newsletter by the graduate assistant for the course, Carly Hayden Foster. Many of the students will follow this course with internships in Topeka in the Spring semester, in collaboration with the Political Science Department.

Women’s Studies will sponsor or co-sponsor two lectures this fall. On September 27 Leonore Tiefer, a clinical psychologist affiliated with the New York University Medical School, will present the 2005 Verne I. Wagner lecture, entitled, “It’s a Big, Bad, Beautiful, Brand New Sexual World Out There: Lessons from Sex Therapy, Sex Research, and Sexual Politics.” Her lecture will be held at 7:30 in the Woodruff Auditorium of the Kansas Union, followed by a book signing in the Big XII Room. An article on Leonore Tiefer, by Prof. Charlene Muehlenhard, follows in this newsletter.

On November 14 at 4:30pm in the Alderson Auditorium of the Kansas Union, Professor Jan Boxill
from the Department of Philosophy at the University of North Carolina will speak on a topic related to race and gender equity in sports. Dr. Boxill is the editor of two anthologies, *Sports Ethics and Issues in Racism and Sexism*, and is currently completing a book on the *Moral Significance of Sport*.

Women’s Studies has enjoyed strong and continuing support from the administration of the College and the University. With that support we have built a solid undergraduate major and minor, and a graduate certificate program. With a little more faculty support, an MA program is within our reach, as well. Yet Women’s Studies is weathering a storm of conservativism at this time. As I write this column, for example, David Horowitz and conservative allies are pressing for Congress to legislate an Academic Bill of Rights, which would, among other things, allow a disgruntled student to sue on the grounds that a professor has not presented “both sides” of a controversy. Any observer to our program or our classes could be assured that well more than two sides of any controversy are being presented, debated, and openly discussed. We remain committed to staying the course in this storm, to teach our students to critically evaluate their culture and values, while prizing and preserving the best in what women and men have done and can do, and advancing the struggle for peace and justice in the world.

**Leonore Tiefer to Speak at KU**

Psychologist, cultural critic, and political activist Leonore Tiefer, Ph.D., will present the Fall 2005 Verne I. Wagner Lecture, entitled, “It’s a Big, Bad, Beautiful Brand New Sexual World Out There: Lessons from Sex Research, Sex Therapy, and Sexual Politics.” The lecture will be Tuesday, September 27, 2005, 7:30-9:00 p.m., in Woodruff Auditorium in the Kansas Union on the KU campus.

Leonore Tiefer is a Clinical Associate Professor at the NYU Medical Center and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. She holds a Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of California, Berkeley, and is a clinical psychologist in New York City. She has written or co-edited three books, including the provocatively-titled *Sex Is Not a Natural Act and Other Essays*—a social constructionist perspective on sexuality. Her thought-provoking, witty, and often controversial work draws on sexual science, feminism, social constructionism, the philosophy of science, and clinical experience. Her expertise ranges from changing ideas of gender identity to the cultural effects of Viagra.

Tiefer organized a group of feminists to initiate a campaign, “A New View for Women’s Sexual Problems,” to challenge the myths about women’s sexuality promoted by the pharmaceutical industry. To quote from their website (www.fsd-alert.org), “The pharmaceutical industry wants women to think that sexual problems are simple and offers drugs as magic fixes. But positive sexual experiences require accurate, unbiased information. The FSD-Alert campaign is committed to the role of activism and education for women’s sexual empowerment.”

These activists wrote a manifesto, spoke at conferences, and spoke with reporters. They published an edited book, *A New View of Women’s Sexual Problems*, and held two “New View” conferences. They testified at the FDA’s hearings on the “Intrinsa” testosterone patch, which Procter and Gamble was promoting as a treatment for low sexual desire in women. They were pleased that the FDA Reproductive Drugs Advisory Committee voted unanimously against approving the drug.

Tiefer’s scientific and clinical expertise, feminist activism, and dry sense of humor combine to make her a dynamite speaker. Her talk will be followed by a reception and book signing. Join us for this unforgettable evening!

This lecture is sponsored by the KU Women’s Studies Program and co-sponsored by the Office of the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Department of Psychology. For more information, see the website, http://www.fsd-alert.org, or contact Charlene Muehlenhard, Professor of Psychology and Women’s Studies, at (785) 864-9860, or Jan Emerson, Women’s Studies Administrative Assistant, at (785) 864-2310.

-Charlene Muehlenhard, Prof. of Psychology/ Women’s Studies
Graduate Certificate Program

Since beginning the Graduate Certificate Program in Fall 2002, we have conferred fourteen certificates, including a class of three this past Spring semester. Our most recent class of graduates are: Elizabeth Lagaron, Jimmie Manning, and Susan Reneau. The pipeline of students is steadily filling, as there are thirteen students in the first course for the certificate program, WS 801, this fall. Certificate students have come from a wide range of disciplines in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the School of Education, and we hope to attract students from other Schools in the University as well. We have added a new page to our website listing the names of our graduates, brief updates on where they are now, and links to their certificate research, if available.

Student Internships and Service Learning

In each of the past two years Women’s Studies has been fortunate to be granted $3000 for support of Service Learning projects from Student Senate as a part of their Educational Opportunity Fund Grant. Last year we were able to fund two students for summer service learning projects. Jessica Funk worked for Women’s Transitional Care Services and Anne Iverson volunteered at GaDuGi Safe Center, the local rape crisis center. Both students prepared reading lists and completed the readings, kept journals of their experiences and reflections, and wrote final papers connecting the academic to the service components of the class. This year we have funding for one more student for summer service learning projects, and we will continue to apply for more funding from Student Senate.

Women’s Studies is seeking to expand opportunities in service learning and internships by combining efforts with existing programs and adding service learning components to selected courses. In Professor Ann Cudd’s Feminism and Philosophy class last spring, 24 of the students completed a service learning module in the class. Professor Cudd’s work was supported by the Service Learning Institute at the Center for Teaching Excellence, and will be featured on their website in the near future. Some of the students prepared digital posters from their experiences that can be seen on our website. The service providers who hosted students were enthusiastic in their comments about the work that the students did and the connections forged with KU and Women’s Studies. We would encourage any Friends or colleagues who could sponsor a service learning or internship student to contact us to discuss a possible link with us.

A Welcome to Hannah Britton - New Assistant Professor in Gender and African Politics/Political Science and Women’s Studies - Prof. Britton received her Ph.D. from Syracuse University in 1999. She will be teaching in the area of Gender and Politics, Women and Politics in Africa, Gender and Globalization, and Gender and Development. Prof. Britton’s teaching is found at the intersection of women’s studies, political science, and African studies. She has regularly taught courses on African Politics, Women in Global Politics, Comparative Politics, Politics of the Developing Regions, and International Political Economy. Prof. Britton hopes to be able teach a number of courses including Contemporary Feminist Political Theory, Gender and Globalization, Gender and African Politics, and the Politics of South Africa.

Prof. Britton’s research area is Gender and African Politics, which focuses broadly on the role of gender in African politics. Prof. Britton completed a study of women in the South African parliament, which strives to understand how women in parliament have operated individually and collectively to transform the laws and institutions to improve the quality of life for women in their country. She is currently co-editing two books: one on gender and civil society in post-apartheid South Africa and one on women in African parliaments. Prof. Britton is interested in the strategies used by women to gain positions in national office, to rewrite constitutions, and to affect legislative change. A smaller project she is completing focuses on organizational strategies used by groups in South Africa fighting gender-based violence.

A New Course for Women’s Studies: Fall 2005, WS 396: Studies in: Women and the Legislative Process

Women’s Studies has an exciting new course to offer this semester. Barbara W. Ballard is lending her
time and talents to teach WS 396: Studies in Women and the Legislative Process. Dr. Ballard is Associate Director of the Dole Institute of Politics, and is our 44th District’s Representative to the Kansas State House of Representatives. With the help of Carly Hayden Foster, Women’s Studies GTA and Political Science Ph.D. student, Dr. Ballard will introduce students to the world of lobbying, campaigns, legislation and public policy making. This course will explore the unique contributions that women make to the legislative process.

The Women and the Legislative Process course will utilize the Status of Women in Kansas report, prepared by the Institute for Women’s Policy Research. Dr. Ann Cudd, co-chair of the Kansas Advisory Committee and Director of the Women’s Studies Program, will meet with the class to share her experiences researching the status of Kansas women. The course will also feature a number of other high profile guest speakers. Students will have the opportunity to meet with powerful women in Kansas including Governor Kathleen Sebelius, State Legislators, longtime former director of the Kansas Motor Carriers Association Mary Turkington, and State Insurance Commissioner Sandy Praeger.

Representative Ballard’s personal experiences in the Kansas Legislature should make the course especially relevant to students interested in contemporary politics. Students will be encouraged to take advantage of a Topeka legislative internship program that will be offered in the Spring. Using the knowledge they gain in the Women and Legislative Process course, students participating in the internship will gain practical experience with Legislators in Topeka.

-Carly Hayden Foster, Ph.D. student in Political Science/Women's Studies

Gender Seminar Calendar for Fall 2005:

Tue., Sept. 6  
Joane Nagel, Sociology and Lindsey Feitz, American Studies  
“Damsels in Distress, Chicks with Guns, and Babes in Arms: The Militarization of Race, Gender, and Sexuality in the Iraq War”

Tue., Oct. 18  
Jorge Perez, Spanish and Portuguese Studies  “Polyvalent Spaces: Gendering the Spanish Road”  

Thu., Dec. 8  
Kelly Chong, Sociology  “Emancipation or Oppression?: Women and the Politics of Gender in South Korean Evangelicalism”

The Gender Seminar studies gender as a basic concept in humanistic scholarship and/or as a fundamental organizing principal in social life. If you would like more information, contact Marta Vicente (History/Women’s Studies, 864-2235, mvicente@ku.edu) or Ann Schofield (American Studies/Women’s Studies, 864-2304, schofield@ku.edu).

Sessions are open to all graduate students, faculty and staff of the University of Kansas and their guests. Papers for all sessions are available on our website www.hallcenter.ku.edu for anyone wishing to attend. A PDF file of the paper is listed according to speaker, and a password is required to access the paper. Please contact the Hall Center at hallcenter@ku.edu for the password. All sessions are held in the Hall Center Seminar Room from 3:30-5:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Women’s Studies & Friends Banquet, 2005: On May 12, Women’s Studies faculty, students and staff joined the Friends of Women’s Studies for our annual recognition ceremony in which award winners, graduating WS Seniors and graduating Graduate Certificate students are recognized.

Awardees for 2004-2005 are as follows: for the Virginia’s Purse Award Jennifer Sheldon-Sherman and Rachel Hynson were each awarded $500.00 and for the Harley S. Nelson Family Fund Scholarship in the Humanities and Social Sciences Jennifer Sheldon-Sherman was awarded $1,500.00. Our Equal Opportunity Grant Recipient Service Learning
Scholarship went to Jessica Funk and Anne Iverson, and each were awarded $1,500.00. Keeja Andrews was the recipient of our General Scholarship and was awarded $1,000.00. The Women’s Studies Senior Thesis Prize of $100.00 went to Anne Iverson. The following students were recognized as this years Women’s Studies graduating seniors: Meagan Foster, Rachel Hynson, Megan Johnson, Sheena Shippee, and Laura Wade.

Our Graduating Graduate Certificate Students for 2004-2005 are Elizabeth Lagaron, Jimmie Manning, and Susan Reneau.
Want to Join Friends?

The Friends of KU Women’s Studies exists to increase awareness and understanding of the philosophies, values, and activities uniquely applicable to women and girls and to promote the growth of the Women’s Studies Program at the University of Kansas. Questions? Contact Ann Cudd at 785-864-2311, or acudd@ku.edu. The Friends website can be viewed at www.ku.edu/~wsku/.

Women’s Studies Endowment Contributors

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Your ongoing support of the Women’s Studies Program at KU is greatly appreciated. If you would like to contribute, please send your tax-deductible contribution to KU Endowment, c/o Kathleen Brady, P.O. Box 928, Lawrence, Kansas 66044-0928. Please write in Women’s Studies mailing code: 7WS in the memo line of your check.

Women’s Studies Endowment Funds

Our Endowment funds make possible projects, scholarships, and social occasions that help us build a community beyond the classroom. Although our Endowment funds lagged somewhat last year, we were still able to support several important events and awards. In addition to our traditional New Women Faculty Potluck and our end of the year annual Awards Banquet, we were able to co-sponsor (with the assistance of the College Dean’s Office) Robyn Weigman’s visit and lecture. At the Awards Banquet, Rachel Hynson and Jennifer Sheldon-Sherman were presented with Virginia’s Purse Awards, and Anne Iverson was presented with the Honors Essay Prize, a new award we instituted this year. Finally, we hosted a Women’s Studies Film Festival in March.