



gender matters

From the chair

New chair predicts major growth for department

It's only been about eight months since my daughter and I arrived here from Washington, D.C., but I already feel like this is home. I must confess, I had anticipated a much more difficult transition, having lived in D.C. and taught at Georgetown University for 11 years. But, while old friends and family are sorely missed, new friends are helping to make this transition a delightful one indeed!

This is a truly extraordinary moment to be gender studies chair at Indiana University. Having recently transitioned from a women's studies program to a full-fledged gender studies department, we are poised to emerge as one of the strongest units in the country focusing on the intersections of gender and sexuality with other substantive "markers" such as race, class, nation, ethnicity, ability, etc.

For those of you who don't know me, let me tell you a little bit about myself. Before arriving here in June, I was a professor of sociology and director of women's studies at Georgetown. I have also taught at Hunter College in New York and at Colorado Col-



Suzanna D. Walters, new chair

lege, where I chaired the women's studies program as well. My work is centered on questions of gender, sexuality, family, and popular culture, and — for better or worse — I often find myself dishing out sound bites to the popular media! My most recent work — *All the Rage: The Story of Gay Visibility in America* (University of Chicago Press, 2001) — examined the explosion of

gay visibility in culture and politics over the past 15 years and raised questions concerning the politics of visibility around sexual identity. The book was a finalist for numerous literary awards (including the Lambda Literary Award) and was the subject of radio and television interviews and discussions, culminating in a 15-city book tour in fall 2001 and spring 2002.

My other works include books on feminist cultural theory (*Material Girls: Making Sense of Feminist Cultural Theory*), mothers and daughters in popular culture (*Lives Together/Worlds Apart: Mothers and Daughters in Popular Culture*), and numerous articles and book chapters on feminist theory, queer theory and LGBT studies, and popular culture.

I am currently engaged with several research projects, including an extension of the analysis of gay visibility that asks new questions about the construction of sexual communities and identities in a "post-visibility" age, particularly as this relates to claims of citizenship and social inclusion.

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Malti-Douglas elected to American Philosophical Society

In the fall of 2004, gender studies Professor Fedwa Malti-Douglas became the fourth IU faculty member (and the first woman from IU) to be elected to membership in the American Philosophical Society. The APS was founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1743 and recognizes achievements in five classes of academic disciplines: mathematical and physical sciences; biological sciences;



Malti-Douglas

social sciences; humanities; and the arts,

professions, and public and private affairs. This year's inductees also include Stephen Breyer, justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, Washington Post chair Donald Graham, and cultural and global affairs commentator Noam Chomsky.

Malti-Douglas is the author of *The Starr Report Disrobed* (Columbia University Press, 2000), which earned her a Pulitzer Prize nomination, and *Men, Women and God(s)*, which was chosen as a Centennial Book by the University of California Press in 1995.

Her co-authored book, *Arab Comic Strips* (IU Press, 1994) was named a Reader's Catalog Selection by the New York Review of Books.

In 1997, Malti-Douglas received a \$100,000 award from the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences. Her intellectual focus has been on visual and verbal narratives, in both high and popular culture, especially where the narratives intersect with issues of marginality, disability, gender, and the body.

Malti-Douglas is the Martha C. Kraft Professor of Humanities at IU Bloomington and teaches gender studies and comparative literature. She is also an adjunct professor in the IU School of Law-Bloomington.

This article was adapted from a story published in IU Home Pages, May 28, 2004, Jayne Spencer, editor. Used with permission.

From the chair

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In addition, I continue to be fascinated with questions of family formation, and I am researching how different modalities of “choice” figure into the decision-making of intentional single mothers.

I am very excited to be part of this university and the Department of Gender Studies. We now have the equivalent of 8.25 full-time employees, including six faculty at 100 percent (Judith Allen, myself, Helen Gremillion, Fedwa Malti-Douglas, Brenda Weber, and Jen Maher); one at 75 percent (Peg Brand, who is also 25 percent funded from the Department of Philosophy), one at 50 percent (Stephanie Sanders, who splits her time with the Kinsey Institute), and numerous others at 25 percent (Laurel Cornell, Sara Friedman, Anne Pyburn, and Rick Wilk). I was able to hire wonderful new staff: Cindy Stone (our department administrator) and Terri Shockley (our office manager). We also have terrific visiting lecturers this year: Kim Christen from the University of California at Santa Cruz, along with Julie Thomas, Tracy Luedke, and Linda Hoke-Sinex from IU.

Administration

When I came here I knew there were a number of priorities, and I’ve tried to tackle many of them already. One of the most pressing needs was to restructure the administrative organization of the department in ways that respected and built upon the innovations of women’s studies programs and that honored our commitment to interdisciplinarity and openness. We had a deep and rewarding conversation in the department and ended up with a three-tier structure of “core faculty” (everyone with 25 percent or more budgeted line in the department), “affiliate faculty” (all those who demonstrated a deep engagement with gender in their research and teaching but were not budgeted) and “gender studies allies” (others who are committed to the project of gender studies and want to be supporters but are unable to give substantively of their time). Both affiliates and allies are voted on by the core faculty for renewable three-year terms and have substantive and meaningful rights and responsibilities in the department.

We have been inundated with requests for affiliation and now have a strong list of affiliates: Elizabeth Armstrong (sociology), Claudia Breger (Germanic studies), Maria Bucur-Deckard (history), Wendy Gamber (history), Mary Gray (communication and culture), Stephanie Kane (criminal justice), Ellen Ketterson (biology), Rosemary Lloyd (French and Italian), Marissa Moorman (history), Jeanne Peterson (history),

Jean Robinson (political science), Wesley Thomas (anthropology), Susan Williams (law), and Bill Yarber (applied health sciences). We anticipate many more to join us in the years to come.

Doctoral proposal

Of course, one of the real thrills of joining the faculty here was the possibility of launching the first gender studies (as distinct from women’s studies) doctorate in the nation. Long in the works, the proposal has been revised now and is being sent through its bureaucratic paces, with the goal of admitting the first cohort of students in the fall of 2006.

There are currently about 10 other women’s studies PhD programs in the country, but this will be the first gender studies program — one that is truly interdisciplinary (even trans-disciplinary!), that stresses sexuality, technologies and sciences of the body and body politics, culture and representation, and transnational feminism. We are all extremely anxious to move forward on this doctorate and have already received queries from prospective students.

New hire

One of the more enticing aspects of this job was the prospect of adding new faculty. We just completed an amazing search for two tenure-track faculty resulting in more than 350 applicants! The search committee included myself, Stephanie Sanders, Helen Gremillion, Brenda Weber, and Jeanne Peterson. I was thoroughly pleased with the diligence and grace exhibited by the entire committee. Indeed, this became a wonderful opportunity for community-building, and both core and affiliate faculty gave generously of their time and made the search a rewarding experience for all involved.

We brought in six stellar candidates and are pleased to announce the arrival of one new faculty member already, Colin Johnson. We are still in negotiations regarding the second position. This will bring us to seven folks at 100 percent – not enough, but a good start!

Future plans

The Department of Gender Studies at Indiana University is strong and growing stronger — I really do believe that the possibilities are limitless. Getting the doctoral program up and running is a high priority, as is revision of the undergraduate curriculum. We plan to hold a departmental retreat with all of our faculty in August to wrestle with curricular revisions and future planning. Of course, all of this growth will take resources, and I will be spending quite a bit of time in the future developing funding proposals to move the department onto even firmer ground. I am particularly

interested in the following new initiatives:

- Planning a yearlong colloquia series on sexuality and citizenship
- Launching a research center and national organization of gender studies
- Establishing the department as a home for Rockefeller, Mellon, and/or AAUW fellowships
- Continuing to open up and invite in new affiliates and allies
- Working closely with allied units — such as the Kinsey Institute — to develop innovative programming and curricula
- Working with the local Buskirk-Chumley Theater to develop an annual feminist film festival

It’s been a hectic eight months — I don’t think I’ve ever worked so hard in my life! But it has been incredibly rewarding. The sense of possibility is almost palpable and the energy level around here is pretty upbeat. I think we all feel engaged, hopeful, and committed to moving gender studies at IU into its rightful place as the place to study the wild and woolly vicissitudes of gender in all its various and varied manifestations. Please always feel free to offer insight, suggestions, and words of wisdom as we embark on this new journey.

— Suzanna Walters

gender matters

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faculty matters

• **Judith Allen**, professor and former chair, has earned a well-deserved sabbatical. Yet, her time off has offered little rest, as her research has taken her to London for research on her book *Kinsey's Women — Sex to Bodies, Heterosexualities and Abortion from 1920–1960*. After serving many years as our departmental chair, Allen is hard at work in the University of London and the Wellcome Institute Library, and she has met with European sexology researchers to study sexuality in the last century during her sabbatical.

Allen returns to teach several graduate level courses in the fall.

• **Peg Brand**, assistant professor, is highly busy with her own research and service activities. This spring finds Brand, who is on leave this year, coordinating a gender studies/women's studies conference at IU Southeast, in New Albany, Ind. The featured keynote speaker will be our own Helen Gremillion. The conference is designed to bring faculty, staff, and students from all of Indiana University's eight campuses together with other students and scholars from around the Midwest.

• **Helen Gremillion**, associate professor, has recently received tenure and is currently teaching a full load of classes while serving as the director of undergraduate studies for the department. In addition, she has been chosen by the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences to serve on a major planning committee for a new humanities/classroom building on the Bloomington campus. Considerable discussion is under way concerning space for units to be housed in the proposed building that are "multidisciplinary," such as gender studies. This could mean a relocation from our present confines of Memorial Hall in the future.

• **Jennifer Maher**, gender studies lecturer, continues to bring in record numbers of students in her classes. Maher, along with Assistant Professor Brenda Weber, teaches the very popular G225 course, Gender, Sexuality, and Pop Culture. Maher hopes to continue to expand her own pro-



Gremillion



Maher

Gender studies hosts United Nations Day

In celebration of the 2004 United Nations Day, more than 60 campus and community members convened for a panel presentation and discussion on worldwide violence against women. United Nations Day is recognized annually by hundreds of countries across the globe to signify the Oct. 24, 1947, worldwide recognition of the United Nations charter.

Gender studies chair Suzanna Walters and visiting lecturer Julie Thomas organized the panel commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act, a collection of federal laws instituted in 1994 to promote safe streets and homes, civil rights, and equal justice for women. The Department of Gender Studies co-hosted the event with the Indiana Commission for Women in accordance with the 2004 United Nations Day theme, "Women's Rights and Empowerment: The Millennium Development Goals and Gender Equity."

"Violence against women affects women of all ages," Thomas said. "The inferior status, secondary status, of women is reflected in the violence — reinforced by the threat of violence. One out of three women around the world has been a victim of abuse." Thomas concentrated audience attention on the negative effects of female circumcision, dowry transactions, acid throwing, "honor" killings, sex trafficking, and ethnic cleansing.

Walters moderated the panel of speakers that included Indiana Sen. Vi Simpson, (D-Bloomington), Middle Way House executive director Toby Strout, gender studies Professor Julie Thomas, and psychology Professor Amy Holtzworth-Munroe. The Department of Gender Studies looks forward to fostering relationships with community leaders and organizations like Middle Way House.

Within the Bloomington city limits, Middle Way House serves women who have been victimized by violence in the community. Regrettably, a \$300,000 government grant was recently not renewed for the Middle Way House. "In a context where there are in fact abused women, women have got to be kept safe," Strout said. "All over the world — not just in this state, country and hemisphere — we lock up the victims instead of the perpetrators. The newest arena for domestic violence is the courtroom. Nothing short of a revolution is needed."

fessional work by developing new courses for the department, such as this fall's offering, Television and Gender: Forms, Meanings, and Technologies.

• **Jeanne Peterson** became Foundation Emeritus Professor of Gender Studies upon retiring in December 2000. But she likes to put "retirement" in quotes. Since then she has served on two gender studies tenure committees, sat on several doctoral exams in history, and chaired or participated in several research committees. In 2003–04, she served as co-chair of the national Department Chair Search Committee that hired Suzanna Walters.

This year, Peterson served on the department's search committee for two new positions in the department. "It was a wonderful experience to see the high quality of scholars doing work on gender," she says.

Meanwhile, she continues to work on her study of "Victorian Bodies," an exploration of the gendered nature of medical discourse in 19th-century England. The first product of that research was a gender

studies workshop seminar titled "Genital Violence and the Doctors in Victorian England." She is now working on a paper titled "Precocious Puberty in the Victorian Medical Gaze."

Newly tenured faculty

In 2004, the department was pleased to announce that **Helen Gremillion** and **Stephanie Sanders** were both promoted to associate professor status and received tenure at Indiana University.

Gremillion has been on the IU faculty for seven years, and Sanders has been the associate director of the Kinsey Institute since 1985 and on the faculty in gender studies for the past seven years.

Gremillion's research areas include gender and science; eating disorders; an-



Sanders

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departmental matters

Sponsored talks

The Department of Gender Studies sponsored two well-attended talks. The first talk was co-sponsored with the CHAMPS Life Skills program (IU Athletics) and featured Professor Wendy Smooth on “What’s at Stake in the 2004 Election.”

For the second talk, the department brought in the foremost expert in masculinity studies, Michael Kimmel, for several days in February, with generous co-sponsorship by the College Arts and Humanities Institute, along with assistance from the Office of the Dean of Faculties and numerous other departments.

Gender studies also co-sponsored a panel on “Images of African-American Gays in Popular Culture,” in which Professor Walters was a participant.

With the Department of Germanic Studies, the department co-sponsored a film series on the work of German feminist filmmaker Ulrike Ottinger.

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Michael Kimmel, right, meets with gender studies students during his visit in February. One of the foremost experts on masculinity studies, Kimmel is a sociology professor at SUNY–Stony Brook and has received international recognition for his work as an expert witness for the U.S. Justice Department in the VMI and Citadel cases.

Faculty matters

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thropology of the body; consumer culture; medical anthropology, and feminist ethnographies. (See photo on page 4.)

Sanders’s research focuses on gender/sex distinction; sexuality; sexual behavior and identity; and the impact of prenatally administered hormones.

She has served as interim director of the Kinsey Institute as well as acting chair of gender studies. Her service work includes numerous university committees, such as the human subjects committee for the Research and Graduate School, and she has been highly involved with the recent tenure-track search.

Recent tenure-track additions

• **Sara Friedman**, assistant professor of anthropology and gender studies, joined the Department of Gender Studies this past fall as a new tenure-track professor. Friedman combines a background in anthropology, Asian studies, and gender studies with a research focus on



Friedman

the relationship between political processes and intimate life in China and Taiwan. Her book, *Intimate Politics: Marriage, the Market, and State Power in Southeastern China*, is due to be published next year by Harvard University Press.

Her current work examines changing understanding and experiences of citizenship and national identity as growing numbers of people move back and forth between China and Taiwan. She is particularly interested in the gendered and familial dimensions of citizenship practice that are emerging with large-scale marital and family-based migration.

Friedman says she is delighted to be here at IU during the development of a gender studies doctoral program. “I am coming from my previous position at an institution where women’s studies was only a program, and it is very exciting to be part of a growing gender studies department with a graduate program on the horizon!”

Friedman looks forward to working with other faculty to build a strong department and to enhance the interdisciplinary strengths that Indiana University offers.

• **Brenda Weber**, assistant professor of gender studies, began a tenure-track position this past fall, bringing to the Department of Gender Studies a background in English literature with an emphasis on the politics of representation in Anglo-American texts of the 19th century. Weber firmly embraces an interdisciplinary approach in

her methodologies and interests. “It is a particular delight for me to be in gender studies, where interdisciplinary scholarship and teaching is so valued,” she says.

Weber is interested in the ways that gender, sexuality, race, and class are depicted in



Weber

literary and cultural texts and the ways they have ramifications for the lived experiences of women and men. As part of her analysis, she employs both feminist geographical theory and theories of celebrity. Along with developing and teaching some interesting new classes — including a course on masculinity — she has begun work on articles exploring the representation of Middle Eastern men in Anglo-American film texts and on the Bobby Hill character in Fox’s animated sitcom *King of the Hill*.

In addition, Weber recently finished an article on metaphors of maternity in fin-de-siècle British writings and has an essay coming out in early March on “Extreme Makeover” in the e-journal *Genders* (www.genders.org).

Read more about our faculty:
www.indiana.edu/~gender

Departmental matters

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New academic adviser

Britta Grieshaber got a running start last semester as our new gender studies undergraduate adviser. Grieshaber has served as an adviser for undergraduate students for two years — first in anthropology, then in cognitive science.

In addition to advising in gender studies, she also serves the Department of Anthropology and the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures. Grieshaber received a BA from the University of Wisconsin—La Crosse in archaeology and completed an MA in anthropology at Indiana University in 2003. She brings a gender-conscious and culturally aware perspective to her work in gender studies.

When asked what she enjoys most about advising, she is quick to reply that being personally and directly involved with students is the best. She enjoys finding ways to help students — whether it's trying to decide if a major or minor is right, figuring out degree requirements, or being a sounding board for other student concerns. Often, advising takes on a personal dimension as students relate their hopes and dreams to Grieshaber and she works to find ways to aid in their pursuits.



Grieshaber

International visitors

The department, in conjunction with other departments and with the Office of International Programs and the Institute for Advanced Studies, co-sponsored two international visitors for the spring semester: Birgit Brock-Utne and Patricia Caille. Experts in feminist research, gender, and pedagogy, these scholars gave lectures, attended classes, and collaborated with faculty in the department during their brief visits.

Gray Scholarship

The Department of Gender Studies invited submissions for the Barbara C. Gray Scholarship for the best undergraduate student paper this spring. An award in the amount of \$500 will be made annually for the outstanding undergraduate paper written for a gender studies class. Students need not be majors or minors but must have written the paper for a gender studies class in the year of application.

The scholarship program was created in memory of Barbara C. Gray, an IU alumna

who cared deeply about women and feminist studies. Her family created the scholarship by making a gift to the IU Foundation in her honor. This year's recipient was Patrick O'Neill, who wrote a brilliant paper on masculinity issues.

New staff

This past year saw the arrival of many new faces in the Department of Gender Studies. As previously mentioned, our chair and academic adviser are new. Veteran IU administrator Cindy Stone (a 24-year professional staffer and former IU trustee, 1993–96) joined the department as our new department administrator. Terri Shockley, our new office manager, came to us from the IU Bursar's office. Together, Stone and Shockley have four decades of office experience, and they have exhibited phenomenal expertise and good cheer in a very difficult period of transition and growth.

New Web site

One of the first jobs for the new staff was to revamp the department's Web site. Administrator Cindy Stone and chair Suzanna Walters researched and studied many Web resources from the best gender and women's studies sites in the country. Stone was assisted by a recent IU graduate, Michelle Wood, in

designing the new site, which was unveiled this winter.

We encourage you to visit the site if you haven't recently. The address is www.indiana.edu/~gender. While a few pages still need to be loaded, we've been told the site is a vast improvement — both stylistically and substantively! Contact Stone for any comments about the site by e-mail at stonec@indiana.edu.

In conjunction with the new Web site design, a series of marketing and promotional signs were designed in-house. A series of messages advertising the department and upcoming course offerings have been strategically placed on IU and city of Bloomington buses.



Shockley, left, and Stone

alumni notes

Melinda Cleary, BA'00 (gender studies), graduated magna cum laude in the top 8 percent of her class from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing, Mich., in January 2005. She has authored a forthcoming article addressing gender stereotypes in the law, titled "Gendered Circumstances and Irrational Inferences: Legal and Medical Images of Women and the Problem of Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy," which will be published in a forthcoming issue of *The Thomas M. Cooley Journal of Clinical and Practical Law*. Cleary plans to take the New York bar exam this spring and reports using many of the concepts she learned in gender studies courses as an integral part of her everyday life.

Department extends thanks to donors

As we prepare our first edition of *Gender Matters*, the faculty and staff of the Department of Gender Studies wish to sincerely thank the many donors who have so generously contributed financial support to the Gender Studies Enrichment Fund in recent years.

We could not offer scholarships to worthy undergraduate students, hire research assistants for our faculty, or create new Web sites without donated funds. Your gifts are used to recruit and support the work of our students, faculty, and staff in helping this department to grow. We truly appreciate all those who have provided financial support in the past years. In future issues of *Gender Matters*, we will seek to recognize those donors who are willing to be thanked in print.

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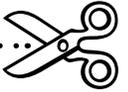
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