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Director's Chair

"Women, Men, and the Professions in the Twenty-First Century Workplace": that was the title of a day-long symposium we held in March, together with the Dedman College Dean's office. Our subject was inspired by an e-mail conversation I had last summer with Peter Moore, then Acting Dean (now Senior Associate Dean) of Dedman College.

Dean Moore had begun asking questions about gender and the professions for reasons both professional and personal. As a college administrator, he was aware that in the U.S. more women than men earn college degrees every year—as has been the case since 1982. In his role as dean he had encountered the research of my colleague Anne Lincoln (sociology), who studies the feminization of the professions. As a father, he wondered what awaits his college-age daughter. And what, we began to muse in our e-mail conversation, does the changing professional workforce mean for young men? For society as a whole? For professional life?

The result of our conversation was our program's first all-day symposium. (See page 3). While acknowledging real gains for women in professional life over the decades, our speakers pointed out that women remain underrepresented on the higher rungs of the ladder even in fields where they are numerous. The talks provided fewer answers to our questions about what the influx of women in the professions means for men, but neither of our keynote speakers—sociologists who presented extensive quantitative research—predicted anything like the "unprecedented role reversal" presaged last summer in the *Atlantic Monthly* (see Hanna Rosin, "The End of Men," July-August 2010). So, a shout-out to the young man who sent me anxious, angry e-mail: relax. Rumors of men's demise have been greatly exaggerated.

Some of our other activities and achievements this year:

A discussion of a work in progress by law professor Linda Eads, titled "Judges And Their Religious Beliefs About Women: What Do We Risk By Inquiring, And What Do We Risk By Not?"

Co-sponsorship of three lectures:

- Professor Srimati Basu (Women's and Gender Studies, University of Kentucky) on family violence and the law in India.
- Professor Mary Armstrong (English and Women's and Gender Studies), Lafayette College, on the once wildly popular but now mostly forgotten Victorian sensation novel *East Lynne*, by Ellen Wood.
- Professor Rhonda Garelick (English and Performing Arts, University of Nebraska), on the art of ORLAN, the French artist best known for her "carnal art" --performance pieces (and their photographic documentation) in which the artist underwent

multiple plastic surgeries in order to explore the cultural meanings of physical beauty.

The creation of three to four paid or for-credit research internships on the following topics:

- 100 years of women at SMU, with Professor Crista DeLuzio and university archivist Joan Gosnell
- The impact of the economic downturn on women in the Dallas area, with Professor Sheri Kunovich

The supervision of internships with the following local agencies:

- Dallas Area Rape Crisis Center (intern: Samaiya Mushtaq)
- New Friends, New Life (assists women who want to leave sexually oriented businesses; intern: Angele Williams)

The awarding of \$16,500 in awards and scholarships to WGS minors, and \$1500 to faculty members developing a new course on sexual harassment and bullying of gay children in schools. (See pages 5-6)

The old, the new and post-modern; the local, the global; the social, the legal, the literary, the aesthetic: WGS takes all the world as its province.

Beth Newman, Director

The New Feminist in the Political Science Department

By Ashley Giles



Karisa Cloward

A new assistant professor of political science has caught the attention of those in the WGS community at SMU. Professor Karisa Cloward, who earned her Ph.D. from Yale University, is writing a book about female genital mutilation in rural Kenya, where she has done research on the topic. She is the first self-proclaimed feminist to work in the Political Science Department in some time.

When I first learned of Professor Cloward, I was excited about and also curious as to how a feminist from Sacramento, California ended up in the Political Science Department at SMU. Professor Cloward first informed me that she grew up thinking about women's issues in the United States. She said her mother was a "good feminist" and encouraged her to not be afraid of feminist as a label.

Inspired by course she took as an undergraduate, Professor Cloward became interested in women's human rights around the world. She became more aware of and more concerned about gender-based violence and harmful traditional practices that effect women. She explained that she felt she "ought to do more formal education" and grappled with the decision to pursue a Ph.D. instead of attending law school.

She says that her decision to pursue a Ph.D. was based on her desire to understand the causes of things. She described how she began to "home in on the questions" surrounding female genital mutilation (FGM). She began to uncover important questions about activists' impacts on communities that practice FGM. All of her research led her to one major question which was to become the subject of her dissertation: To what extent do activists have an influence on local communities and make changes in their behaviors possible?

This question ultimately led Professor Cloward to Kenya's local communities to study the actions of activists and non-governmental organizations and their ability to stop the practice of such harmful traditional practices as FGM.

Professor Cloward now finds herself the only feminist and the only female tenure track professor in the Political Science Department of SMU.

I wanted to know if Professor Cloward has been able to continue her research while teaching her own class for the first time. She described how easy it is as a first time assistant professor to get caught up in teaching but also

reassured me that “there is something symbiotic about teaching and research.” She observed that teaching can force one to read things one otherwise may not have read, and noted that a student may bring something new to one’s attention. In Professor Cloward’s words, “research informs teaching, ideally the two work together.”

WGS Holds Symposium on Gender and the Professions

By Jena Jessen, class of 2012

On March 26, the Women’s and Gender Studies Program presented a full-day symposium in McCord auditorium titled “Women, Men, and the Professions in the Twenty-first Century Workplace.” An audience consisting of faculty, staff, students, and members of the local community learned about the latest controversies, opinions, and research regarding professional work and gender.

Keynote speaker Mary Frank Fox, ADVANCE Professor in Georgia Institute of Technology’s School of Public Policy, opened the symposium by exploring the participation of women in science and engineering. She argued that these fields are so powerful and influential that it is important to reduce the significant gender disparities within them. More women faculty in these areas would act as role models and show that they are appropriate occupations for both genders.

Professor Fox’s address was followed by a panel discussion moderated by SMU’s Anne Lincoln, Assistant Professor of Sociology, which provoked lively discussion among panelists and audience members. SMU Political Science professor Dennis Simon recalled that when he was a student, a young woman wrote home about getting A’s in her classes, only to have her male kin write back “Don’t appear to be too smart.” Local realtor and SMU alumna April Brown shared her perspective as recent graduate, and spoke of her experience opening her own business and working as a woman in real estate. Mary Elizabeth Cedillo-Pereira, another SMU alumna, told about how her mother inspired her to excel and to help others, which she has sought to do through her practice as an immigration lawyer.



Mary Frank Fox

After lunch beneath the glowing rotunda skylight, the second panel, moderated by Assistant Professor Sheri Kunovich of SMU’s sociology department, discussed issues regarding the SMU and Dallas communities. Dean Geoffrey Orsak of the Bobby B. Lyle School of Engineering praised the outstanding undergraduate women in the Engineering program, insisting that their excellence and success has little to do with the gender parity agenda set up by the program to attract them. “They came in with not a chip on their shoulder about gender but a drive in their heart about their goal,” he claimed. Dr. Alice Chang, Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine and UT Southwestern Medical Center, discussed a broad range of topics in the medical workplace, such as changes regarding working hours and doctor-patient relationships as a result of greater female participation, and stressed the need for recommenders



Jerry Jacobs

to maintain gender neutrality when writing letters of recommendation. Martha Blaine, the Executive Director of the Community Council of Greater Dallas, explained the benefits of a flexible workplace. Flex time makes her own agency a family-friendly workplace staffed by efficient and dedicated employees.

The second keynote speaker, Jerry Jacobs, Professor of Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania, presented a retrospective summary of important changes in our world over time, things that we take for granted every day. Drawing on extensive research, he concluded that while women have entered several prominent professions in considerable numbers, structural barriers to their success and discrimination against them still remain.

What Good is a Minor in Women's and Gender Studies?

An Alumna and a Graduating Senior Reflect

A Business of Her Own: A Woman's Studies Alumna Describes Her Career So Far

By Ginger Strand, class of 1994



In my graduating year of 1994, I was honored to receive the Ann Early Award for Outstanding Senior Minor in Women's Studies at SMU. My experience in the Women's Studies program at SMU was life-changing. It helped me understand myself better and empowered me with the tools I needed to navigate through life in my own way, believing in my vision and recognizing its special place in society. It helped me to recognize and understand gender politics. My studies also helped me see the need to correct inequities men experience. (While women have had a more difficult road overall, men have also encountered social and psychological barriers and biases that women can help alleviate, improving the quality of life for all.) My relationships with men and women are more professional because of the world view I developed in my studies at SMU.

In 2009, I started Millinerium, my own business, in which I design, create, and sell my own line of hats and headwear. I incorporate as many eco-friendly elements as possible, including natural and organic materials, recycled materials, and even cruelty-free feathers when possible. I also use "green" packaging, labeling, and operations. Clients with hair loss from cancer and alopecia have found several of my sewn-hat styles to be emotionally uplifting and very practical; I try to be mindful of sensitive skin when selecting fabrics.

Starting one's own business is a complicated and challenging task, but with the confidence I gained as a Women's Studies minor I have been able to create a business that has grown every year since its inception. I worked at corporate jobs for fourteen years after college and realized that corporate culture was never going to reward me the same way it rewards my husband. Some of that is certainly because he works in technology, which is a high-demand, high-paying (and high-stress) job. But the corporate jobs I performed were also high stress and I never managed to make even half of what my husband makes. The jobs that American culture values tend to be dominated by men, and I'm still not sure which caused which – do we value technology, sports, etc. because men dominate those fields? Or do so many male consumers value those fields that the rest of us get caught up in the tide that ultimately drives salaries for both genders?

I managed to negotiate a couple of raises in my corporate career, but the vast majority of my requests were denied, mostly by male superiors. I cannot confirm that they were turned down because of a "good ol' boy" system; there may have been other causes. But I came to see starting my own business as my best chance to earn a higher income. I hope that by running my own business, I can level the playing field for myself and show the way to other women interested in starting their own businesses!



Ginger Strand graduated in 1994 with a B.F.A. in studio art, working in painting, sculpture, and ceramics. In addition to owning Millinerium, she also writes a blog titled "Thoroughly Modern Milliner" (<http://millinerium.wordpress.com>). Her creations can be seen at <http://www.millinerium.com>.

A Pre-Med Major Reflects on her WGS Minor

By Bushra Samaiya Mushtaq, class of 2011

I remember the day I learned about the Women and Gender Studies program at SMU quite well: I was in Dr. Karen de Olivares' office, and the topic of our conversation got around to my early education in the various nuances of gender-based distinctions that came with growing up Pakistani-American. Dr. de Olivares mentioned how she thought I'd be great for the WGS Council, which I hadn't heard of before.

Up until that point, I had been interested in issues surrounding women in healthcare, both as patients (maternal health, HPV and cervical cancer, etc.) and as providers. (It wasn't until 1989 that the American Medical Association elected its first female board member, and 2003 when the amount of women matriculants to medical schools reached 50%.) I looked into the minor as Dr. de Olivares' suggested, and I found the academic study of the condition of women and the role of gender in society to be fascinating. The interplay of sociology, literature, and political science, among others, was exactly the liberal arts bent I was craving in my science-laden course-load. I immediately declared the minor and in a matter of days was looking into an internship at the Dallas Area Rape Crisis Center for the summer.

In the year I have worked on my WGS minor, I have taken courses ranging from Dr. Joci Caldwell-Ryan's "Gender and Human Rights" to Professor Martha Satz's "Literary Contexts of Disability." These were interesting courses taught by great professors, but many courses at SMU are interesting courses taught by great professors. What stood out about these and other WGS courses were their application to my life. In almost every medical school interview, I discussed the opposing social and medical models of disability. Meanwhile, Gender and Human Rights exposed me to issues of reproductive rights and the immense need of women in developing countries for basic healthcare, and I hope to be a part of the physician groups working to meet this need.

I have also had the pleasure of knowing some remarkable women through this program, including Dr. de Olivares and Dr. Joci Ryan, the former as advisor and the latter as professor. Dr. de Olivares has guided me through every step in the medical school application process, and I have spent many an hour in her office talking about school and life, and she was someone I just had to call when I received my acceptance to Vanderbilt University's School of Medicine. Dr. Ryan moves on wheels, and I am amazed both by how hard she works and how accommodating she is. She is one of the best professors I have had at SMU, both for the content of her courses and her willingness to help her students.

I look back on this year with fond memories, including receiving the Maynard Award for Academic Excellence in Women's and Gender Studies, for which I feel honored. With the new course additions, both in house and abroad, and the many internship opportunities I have received emails about, I am excited to see where the WGS program goes. I hope more students will take advantage of the opportunities through the program that I was lucky to have had.

If you would like to contribute a short essay about your experiences as a women's (and gender) studies minor, please send your contribution to womnstud@smu.edu

Announcements

Betty Janette Maynard Scholarships and Awards for Excellence in Women's and Gender Studies

Maynard Scholarships are given to high-performing WGS minors or individualized majors who are eligible for financial aid in their senior years. All WGS students are eligible in their junior and senior years for Maynard Awards; the recipients have submitted portfolios of their WGS-related work (both academic and creative) to a judging committee, which chooses the winners. Both endowments—the Maynard Scholarship and the Maynard Award Funds—were established by Mr. William Maynard to honor his late sister, Betty Janette Maynard, who helped bring the SMU Women's Studies Program into existence in the 1970s.

This year four declared WGS minors have been awarded \$16,000 from the two Maynard funds.

Maynard Scholarships



Jessica Andrewartha, who graduated in May with a B.F.A. in Theatre, was a leader of the campus feminist community. As a member, co-President, and then President of the Women's Interest Network, she built the annual production of The Vagina Monologues into a longer Sexual Assault Awareness Week, helped the group's membership quadruple in number, and created the group Men with Integrity. She was designated the 2011 recipient of the Emmie V. Baine Legacy Award, named in honor of the founder of the SMU Women's Center. She was also active behind the scenes in theater companies locally as well as in New York City.

Aaron Barnes earned his B.A. in Cultural Anthropology in August, and was active in the campus gender community throughout his time at SMU. In 2010 he was named a Peggy Rudd Scholar, and participated in SMU's Graduate Research Day as an undergraduate anthropology major. He has been inducted into honor societies for anthropology students and first-year students, and has held multiple executive positions in Spectrum, a campus group founded in 1991 to enable people of all sexual orientations and gender identities to express their experiences and thoughts about LGBT issues. He pursued minors in both WGS and Human Rights.



Maynard Awards



Madeline Shulman graduated in May with majors in Political Science and Sociology. She assisted sociology professor Sheri Kunovich in her research on women congressional candidates in the 2008 election; worked as a sociology tutor at SMU's Altshuler Learning Enhancement Center; sat on the Women's and Gender Studies Council; interned with the Tennessee Democratic Party and for a member of the California state assembly; and was inducted into the fraternities and honor societies associated with Political Science and Sociology.

Bushra Samaiya Mushtaq, a President's Scholar and chemistry major, maintained an almost perfect GPA while being very active on campus and in the wider community. To name only a few: on campus she served on the Women's and Gender Studies Council and held leadership positions in the Muslim Student Association, the Minority Association of Pre-Health Students, and the campus chapter of Amnesty International. Off campus she volunteered with Dallas Habitat for Humanity; helped repair homes in Galveston after Hurricane Ike; served as a student observer at hospitals in Desert Valley and Las Colinas; and designed a sexual assault prevention program for the Dallas Area Rape Crisis Center. She has just begun her first year of medical school at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine.



Ann Early Award for Academic Excellence in WGS and Service to the Program

This award was named for the director of the Women's Studies Program from 1980-1989. Samaiya Mushtaq received the award for 2010-11.

In Memoriam



The Women's and Gender Studies Program of SMU mourns the loss of Louise Ballerstadt Raggio, a trailblazing lawyer and SMU graduate, who died on January 24 at 91. She spearheaded a rewriting of the Texas law code in order to secure legal and property rights that were denied to married women before 1967. The Women's Studies Program hosted the Raggio Lecture in Women's Studies from 1988-2009.

Photo by Clayton Smith at 2003 Raggio Lecture

Alumnae News

Jaime (Noble) Gassmann ('02) successfully defended her dissertation, "Patrolling the Homefront: The Emotional Labor of Army Wives Volunteering in Family Readiness Groups," at the University of Kansas. She will receive her Ph.D. in American Studies from Kansas this May, and meanwhile is working as a free-lance copy-writer and academic proofreader while raising her son.

Karrin J Smoley ('99) is the Gender-based Violence Program Manager at the International Rescue Committee based in New York. She commutes from Stamford, CT, where she lives with her husband and daughter.

Ginger Strand ('94) runs her own business called *Millinerium* where she hand-crafts eco-friendly artisan hats and headwear. Her line includes soft hats, blocked hats, special occasion, bridal, and custom pieces. She sells locally at craft shows, in several boutiques, and online at <http://www.millinerium.com>.

We also heard from **Shelley Shaver ('74)**, an SMU alumna who pre-dates our program's existence as Women's Studies. She has written a work of poetry titled "Rain: A Dust Bowl Story," which you can find at <http://dustbowlpoetry.wordpress.com>. She invites comments on the site and responds to every one of them. She writes: "Although I'd love to say that I was a Women's Studies minor, I was at SMU before such a program existed. In fact, I was in a class taught by Ann Early [director of the program from 1980-1989] which was called, "The Nature of Man"! We smiled at such a title even then. But as a Texas feminist, I spent years researching and writing the story of one young farm wife, her husband and son, and her best friend, the town outcast, as they all battle to survive The Great Depression and the black storms of the Dust Bowl. Our grandmothers were strong women."

Please send your news to womnstud@smu.edu!

New Digital Format

This newsletter was created in Adobe InDesign by Jessica Lott. With this issue, a retrospect of last year's activities, we begin to offer a paperless version. If you are receiving hard copy and would prefer e-mail, please let us know by sending a message to womnstud@smu.edu. If you are receiving an electronic copy and would prefer paper, please let us know that as well.

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