WALKING THE WALK:
WKU Women’s Studies Students Travel to Atlanta to Attend the Regional Collegiate Global Women’s & Human Rights Conferences

Article by Angela Fetty, WS minor

Atlanta was calling the names of eight women’s studies students and two faculty/staff as they piled into their cars to begin the exciting journey south. Spelman College, a historically Black women’s college founded in 1881, hosted The Feminist Majority Foundation’s South Atlantic Global Women’s and Human Rights Conference on October 29.

Everyone was eager to learn about global issues, and about how to help and how to take action in Bowling Green, KY to make a difference. The trip was made possible by the Friends of Women’s Studies, the Gail Martin Faculty Development and Lecture Series, and the Provost’s Initiatives for Excellence.

“I think sometimes we miss how women’s studies connects to global human rights and the environment—the panelists and plenary speakers at the conference made connections in a way that textbooks cannot come close to making. This is what civic engagement is all about, and I am so thrilled to be a part of that process,” said Molly Kerby, instructor of women’s studies (and trip leader).

On Saturday, the opening plenary, “Organizing Worldwide for Women’s Rights, Human Rights, Economic Justice, and the Environment,” ignited the enthusiasm of the group and featured inspiring speeches from well-known women working for women’s and human rights, such as Eleanor Smeal, president of Feminist Majority and publisher of Ms. Magazine, and Dr. Joanne DeMark, associate director and LGBTQ caucus leader. They showed a video about the Global Gag Order and how it affects women in other countries, and touched on the spread of AIDS and the effects of sweatshops.

“I learned a lot about HIV/AIDS and how it is a rapidly growing problem for women, especially in many African countries,” said Kanya Reid, women’s studies minor.

Information was provided by many groups from Atlanta, around the United States, and world. The corridor leading to the conference rooms was lined with tables of representatives with their pamphlets, flyers, stickers, and petition sheets. You could buy a subscription to The Militant, a socialist newsweekly, pick up information about UNFPA, get bumper stickers that said “Americans United for Separation of Church and State,” and get (Continued on page 4)

Some of the students who attended the conference: Melissa Layson, Jeff Herron, Angie Fetty, and Heather Bridges
Thoughts in the Presence of Fear

From the Director's Desk

SCREEN TWO EXPERIMENTAL FRAMEWORKS
APPEARANCE ENVIRONMENTS FRAMEWORK

Two thought experiments were hypothesized. The first thought experiment was conducted as an individual thought experiment in a single subject. The second thought experiment was conducted as a group thought experiment in a single subject.

October 3, 2005

From the Director's Desk

The first thought experiment was conducted in a single subject. The second thought experiment was conducted in a group of subjects. The results of both experiments were analyzed and compared.
Spotlight on Speakers

SENNA JETER NASLUND:
IMAGINATION AS A SPIRITUAL AND MORAL FORCE

Photos by Trish Lindsey Jaggers

September 6, 2005

Senna Jeter Naslund, named 2005 Kentucky Writer Laureate, read from her latest book, *Four Spirits*, and shared with the audience some of the research she put into creating this work of fact-based fiction. The novel interweaves the infamous story of the Birmingham church bombing that led to the murders of four African American girls with the stories of a vast array of characters who struggled in the heat of the Civil Rights Movement. She noted that other novelists have not dealt with this disturbing period in our nation’s history.

Senna Jeter Naslund

Naslund signs a book for Paula Trafton

WILMA MANKILLER
COMMUNITY-CENTERED LEADERSHIP

September 14, 2005

"It’s hard to see the future with tears in your eyes," said Wilma Mankiller to a standing-room-only crowd. This saying reflects her beliefs about leadership—leadership that earned her the position of Chief of the Cherokee Nation. Mankiller was the first woman to serve in that capacity.

Her autobiography was required reading in an English and a history course this semester, so students had the rare opportunity to meet an author whose work was relevant to their classwork.

Wilma Mankiller

Mankiller signs a book for a high school student, also Cherokee, who attended the event.

Films, cont’d from previous page

History professor Tony Harkins concludes, "Speaking truth in a way that illuminates and educates rather than alienates is what Appalshop has long been about and what was very much in evidence during the screenings of the films *Sludge* and *Thoughts in the Presence of Fear*. These films exposed the incredibly destructive human and environmental consequences of largely unregulated coal mining and the quest for ‘cheap energy’ at all costs, and they also pointed to our own culpability in these tragedies as consumers. Maybe more important, these films showed students at WKU the ability of Kentuckians—whether Wendell Berry or activists in Martin County or the filmmakers—to challenge the status quo and to offer an alternative social ethic based on sustainability and peaceableness. The lively comments from the audience after the screening, and the passion of the filmmakers in their responses, were also a vital lesson that the seemingly distant problems of war, environmental destruction, and wasteful energy practices start in our own backyards. All of us can be part of the solution as well."

Women’s Studies thanks the following colleges for funding this event: College of Education & Behavioral Sciences; College of Health & Human Services; Ogden College; and Potter College.

After the event, at the Guthrie war memorial behind MMTH, a candle-light vigil was held to recognize those who’ve lost their lives while fighting the war in Iraq—the number had reached 2,000 by that day.
What’s going on at Women’s Studies?

Women’s Studies is proud to introduce our newest faculty members:
Molly Kerby, full-time WS instructor
&
Leigh Johnson, part-time WS instructor

WELCOME!

Molly Kerby

Leigh Johnson

Molly is working to complete her PhD in Higher Education, and Leigh received her MA in English in the spring. Both hold graduate certificates in women’s studies.

(Atlanta Conference, "continued from page 1)

pamphlets about emergency contraception and the effects of unsafe abortions.

"Though sessions addressed an array of women’s issues, we realized afterwards that all of these issues—from the availability of contraception, to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, to thelarger category of human rights. We came home with a vision of uniting individual organizations to create a stronger, larger group that promotes activism for ALL human rights," said Heather Bridges, women’s studies graduate assistant.

After the opening plenary, the group split to go to different workshops. Many students found it difficult to choose which one to attend. One was "Human Trafficking and Globalization in the New Millennium." In this workshop, Stephanie Davis, the policy advisor on women's issues for Mayor Shirley Franklin of Atlanta, explained the epidemic facing Atlanta: the human trafficking of young girls. Because of Davis's hard work, the city of Atlanta was forced to acknowledge the problem and to change their policies. In 2000, before Davis began working, pimping a child was only a misdemeanor and a $50 fine. Now pimping is a 20-year felony and a $20,000 fine. None of the students who attended this workshop knew human trafficking was such a problem in Atlanta, but Davis explained that the city is on the human trafficking pipeline that runs from Maine to Miami. Davis’s efforts are truly inspirational: she led a full investigation into human trafficking and released a report, helped open Angela’s House—the only safe place on the East Coast for young girls to escape their pimps—and forced the police in Atlanta to crackdown on pimps instead of young girls.

"The conference made me open my eyes and see that there are a lot of people who need our help. All we have to do is stand up and be heard," said Becky Hawkins, another women’s studies minor.

This conference gave the students the perfect opportunity to learn important issues outside of the classroom. It was an event that many will not forget. They took away so much information and knowledge.

“Our trip to Atlanta was more than I could have ever hoped for; I feel we really came to together and really grew, both individually and as a group. The memories and friendships made I will carry with me for life,” said Jeff Herron, women’s studies minor.
Alexia Layson, MS Online Graduate Student

I began my MS in Nutrition Science at WKU and I was nervous about the online format. I worried about how I would stay motivated in my studies and feel like I was part of a community. However, I loved the flexibility of being able to work when it was convenient for me. I really appreciated the support of the instructors and the other students. I found the online courses to be as challenging as the in-person ones. Although I am not face-to-face with the instructors or the other students, I found them to be very responsive and engaging. I enjoyed the discussions and the opportunity to debate ideas with others. I learned a lot from my classmates and I feel like I have grown a lot as a learner.

New York

Susan Alexander, MS Online Graduate Student

The online courses have been challenging and have forced me to be more organized and disciplined. I have learned to manage my time effectively and have become more efficient in my studies. The instructors have been very supportive and have provided me with helpful feedback. I have learned a lot from the online format and feel like I have grown as a learner.

Texas

Sherri D. Strock, MS Online Graduate Student

The online format has allowed me to work on my own schedule and at my own pace. I have been able to balance my studies with my other commitments and have been able to apply what I have learned in my personal life. The discussions have been very interesting and have helped me to think critically. I have enjoyed the flexibility of the online format and feel like I have grown as a learner.
Catherine Coogan Ward: The Opus of Women's Studies

The project is funded by the Foundation for Women's Education. I hope she gives them the inspiration they need to continue their education.

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A women's studies program is important for women to understand the complexities of gender and the intersections of gender with race, class, and sexuality. Women's studies programs provide a space for women to explore their own identities and experiences and to engage with the broader feminist movement. These programs also provide a platform for women to challenge patriarchal norms and to advocate for gender equality and social justice. women's studies programs are essential for developing a more inclusive and equitable society.

Clearing the Path to Understanding

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Friends of Women’s Studies serves as a bridge between the Women’s Studies Program at WKU and the broader communities of Bowling Green and Kentucky. Its goals are:
1. Carry the Women’s Studies mission into the broader community
2. Increase awareness about women’s issues
3. Serve as a catalyst for change
4. Fund scholarships, events, and other activities that support women

OFFICIAL FRIENDS OF WOMEN’S STUDIES

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*Dr. Robert Spiller, Jr.
*Katie & Bob Ward

Your name could be here!

Persons wishing to be a member of FOWS can do so at various membership levels.
Contributions and membership fees support FOWS initiatives: Graduate scholarships, travel
scholarships for students (assistance to attend conferences, research, and internships), and
community projects such as the Jail Project (see pictures and story on page 9).

2005-2006 WOMEN’S STUDIES MEMBERSHIP/CONTRIBUTION FORM*

*All donations are tax-deductible

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___ Gail Martin Faculty Development & Lecture Series
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Enclosed is my total gift/pledge of $
Barbara Ehrenreich—author of widely-acclaimed book *Nickel and Dimed*—Thursday, March 2, 2006, 7:30 p.m.
Van Meter Auditorium, Co-sponsored by Premiere Performances

March 8, 2006, 7:30 p.m.
new venue (due to sell-out crowds)—
Van Meter Auditorium

**VDay**

Our *generations* Colloquia Luncheon Series will continue with a presentation by students who went to the conference (see page one) and another by Elizabeth Oakes (English) and Linda Lumsden (Journalism).

In the works . . . A forum on gay families.

**Gender Images Films Series** will continue with great new films chosen by our film committee.

Check our website (below) for dates and locations of upcoming events.

We’re on the Web! www.wku.edu/womensstudies/

I don’t want to be remembered. I’m still here.
Madeleine Albright