

From the chair: We've only just begun

Now that my first year is officially over, I can safely say that I may not be a Hoosier yet, but I do feel more and more welcome in this wonderful university! My daughter, Emma, and I continue to thoroughly enjoy our life here and are as excited as ever about the future.

This year promises to be as busy as last year. As we reported, we successfully hired a wonderful new assistant professor, Colin Johnson, who joined us this fall, and we are currently conducting a search for a second position, this time framed around issues of transnational gender and sexuality. We hope to have the search wrapped up early and to make offers by the end of the fall semester.

Professor Johnson is not the only new face around here: I was very pleased to be able to hire Lynn Comella for a two-year visiting position. She brings a wide range of teaching and scholarship to the department and has already proved a valuable colleague. Welcome to both Colin and Lynn!

Working retreat

While moving the doctorate along is certainly a very high priority, we have also been working on a number of other major initiatives. We had a very successful departmental retreat in August at the Inn of the Four Winds at Lake Monroe, where we managed to get a huge amount accomplished and had quite a bit of fun as well.

The undergraduate curriculum committee — chaired by Jen Maher — worked diligently to prepare a proposal for a substantive revision of the undergraduate major. After much productive discussion, a new undergraduate curriculum was indeed approved and will go into effect fall 2006. We think this new structure is more rigorous and interdisciplinary and more accurately reflects trends in gender studies and the expertise of our growing faculty. Central to the new curriculum will be a new required course called Gender Studies: Core Concepts and Key Debates and a multicultural course requirement.



A poster announcing our new doctorate in gender studies

At the retreat, we also managed to approve other administrative changes, including a course rotation format to ensure departmental teaching equity, new guidelines for course size, a new constitution and mission statement, and changes to the voting procedures. It really was a productive and harmonious meeting, where we were able to successfully complete all the pressing agenda items. My thanks to all who participated.

The doctorate is ready

The doctorate continues to wend its merry way through the bureaucracy. I presented the proposal at the College Curriculum Committee meeting and at the meeting of the university-wide Academic Leadership Council. We received very positive feedback, and the proposal was passed in both meetings. It was then approved by the IU board of trustees in November, and

now it goes to the Commission on Higher Education of the State of Indiana. We are thrilled to finally be wrapping this up and anticipate admitting roughly seven students to the doctoral program in fall 2006. We have received literally hundreds of inquiries about the program, and I've been working closely with Helen Gremillion — our new director of graduate studies — to develop brochures, revamp our Web site, and create other advertising tools to get the word out. I am absolutely convinced that launching the first gender studies doctorate in the nation will catapult us and Indiana University into the academic spotlight.

Fall events

So much continues to percolate here: New affiliates have joined the department, we continue to work closely with allied departments on events and strategic planning, our speaker

(continued on page 2)

Inscribing the female body

Filiz Cicek: Lifting the shroud of Islamic tradition

Since 2003, Filiz Cicek has worked as a graduate assistant for our large G225 classes, Gender, Sexuality, and Popular Culture. Cicek is a busy young scholar working on her PhD in Central Eurasian studies with minors in gender studies and art history. She received a master's in fine arts from IU after completing her undergraduate studies in sculpture and art history in her native Turkey.

During the past two years, Cicek has worked by day on her academic pursuits in gender studies and by night on her art, most recently producing large-format photography and printing of feminist art. For some on campus, her artistic endeavors have been controversial and for others, amazingly inspirational.

Recently, Cicek entered her largest work to date, "Inscribing the Female Body," in a Chicago museum. Since its return, her work has been displayed in the Department of Gender Studies, while other pieces have been shown in the galleries of the Kinsey Institute for Sex, Gender, and Reproduction.

When asked why she chose to produce feminist art, Cicek responded, "All ideologies, whether secular, philosophical, political, or religious, deserve to be questioned. This project deals with the tensions between the female body and the Koran by exploring certain verses that define women and that structure their bodies and behaviors, rendering them secondary to men. The verses are portrayed in English, French, and Spanish. Later parts of this project will include female models from various races, as well as male models."

Cicek says this project is a reflection of her experiences as a secular Muslim female artist living in Bloomington, a female who was forced to confront her native country's contemporary issues in a foreign land. She tried to exhibit her work in Istanbul, hoping to generate discussion about Islam's treatment of women in Turkey, where honor killings, domestic violence, and marriage rape, sanctioned by Islam, are all too common today. However, at a time when the Islamic ruling party of Turkey was proposing to criminalize adultery in an ongoing attempt to enter the European Union, her art was deemed too controversial to be shown.



Graduate assistant Filiz Cicek installs one of her recent feminist art works in the Gender Studies Library in Memorial Hall.

Cicek says, "Religiously based topics should be addressed, especially when the whole world is dealing with issues of terrorism, human rights, Islam, East vs. West, Christian fundamentalism vs. Islamic fundamentalism. Religion is filling the void that was created by the fall of communism at an alarming rate. (Good-bye, Lenin, hello, Jesus!)"

Cicek grew up in a household where family members were well-versed in the Koran. Having read it in its original Arabic and Turkish translation since the age of 10, she has developed a certain level of respect for Islam and its practitioners. But those same family members who offered her the knowledge she values never pressured her into practicing the faith in any shape or form, nor did they treat her any differently than they did her brothers. Unlike daughters in traditional Muslim families, Cicek was never treated like a "girl," or as somehow differently "inscribed" because of her gender. "This is the freedom of choice and equality that I am looking for here, in the United States, and that I portray in my art," says Cicek.

Cicek says that she did not choose this issue; it chose her. The political elements in her work are quite personal. Yet, she also tells the story of thousands of other Muslim women, whose voices must be heard and not silenced by capitalist, religious, or secular ideologies.

"For one thing is certain: by its very nature, visionary art is controversial. If not I, then who? If not now, when?"

New book series

Michael Kimmel, professor of sociology at SUNY Stony Brook, and IU gender studies chair Suzanna Walters are co-editing a new book series, *Intersections: Transdisciplinary Perspectives on Genders and Sexualities*.

Walters and Kimmel believe that in the past three decades, scholarship on gender and sexuality has exploded in the social sciences and the humanities. Most university presses boast at least one series on gender and perhaps even one on sexuality. However, Kimmel and Walters feel many of these series remain limited in their reach and have become, in some ways, historically anachronistic: They have created the very literatures that have made their perspectives obsolete.

Many series remain anchored in disciplinary perspectives, serving only people in sociology or literary or cinema studies. But the best scholarship is currently being done by people working across disciplines (thus the "transdisciplinary perspectives" of their proposal).

Kimmel and Walters add, "We believe that intersectionality — the collision, confounding, commingling of these various threads of experience — is the most exciting framework for new and emerging writing in gender and sexuality studies. It is the place where students are writing the most fascinating dissertations and the place where established scholars are now returning to rethink earlier paradigms and transcend categorical and disciplinary boundaries."

Kimmel and Walters are ideally positioned to edit such a series. They are both trained as sociologists with areas of expertise and methodological dispositions that complement each other.

From the chair

(continued from page 1)

series "Homeland Insecurities: Sexuality, Citizenship, and Empire" got off to a great start, and we have more speakers throughout the year. In addition, we are planning a major international conference in spring 2007 on that same theme, with generous initial assistance from the College dean's office.

This is just the tip of the gender studies iceberg! It's hard to believe I've only just completed my first year: We have accomplished so much and are now poised to move into our next phase of doctoral development.

My deepest thanks to our enormously hard-working staff and faculty who have made this all happen so smoothly — we've only just begun. Our future looks bright indeed.

—Suzanna Walters

Sexual citizenship

Nan Hunter addresses rhetorics of marriage

Nan D. Hunter, professor of law at Brooklyn Law School, visited IU Bloomington in September to speak about the conflicts, paradoxes, and hurdles that face the same-sex marriage movement as a means to surface questions about marriage in general. Hunter, the first speaker in the Department of Gender Studies-sponsored "Homeland Insecurities" lecture series, examined the rhetorics at work in the debates over gay marriage in order to explain why the marriage question has been conflated and aggrandized from pulpit to political platform.

Hunter drew the audience's attention by outlining three main rhetorics that she feels shape the marriage debate: the language of equality, the language of choice, and the language of stability. "Each of these three rhetorics," she added, "reflects an underlying theme: citizenship, kinship, and gender, respectively."

Hunter posited that though the laws of marriage have been used to determine citizenship and legitimacy in history, efforts to legalize same-sex marriage have prompted an exaggeration of the importance of the institution of marriage; so much so, in fact, that while the GLBT community and its allies are demanding an end to the exclusion, opponents to the same-sex marriage movement have distorted the language of equality in order to legitimize exclusion.

Hunter continued by questioning the rhetorics of choice and the concepts of kinship. "Will winning same-sex marriage end these debates? Or are there other kinship or intimacy structures that fall outside of marriage?" Hunter asked, naming domestic partner benefits as one of these structures. She reminded us: "Marriage is not for everyone, gay or straight."

Hunter concluded her lecture with a discussion of the traditional stability of fixed gender roles. She said, "The prospect



Nan Hunter, left, with gender studies chair Suzanna Walters following Hunter's lecture — the first in the *Homeland Insecurities* series this year

of same-sex couples marrying triggers panic over the meaning of gender within one of the last great engines for producing and reproducing gender: marriage. ... Underlying

much of the resistance to marriage equality is a sense that it would pose the symbolic death of gender roles in marriage." Indeed, Hunter believes that the legalization of same-sex marriage could result in more egalitarian, blended, balanced, and stable familial and social structures.

Hunter concluded, "Although I believe that ultimately same-sex marriage will be a legal right recognized throughout the United States, I think that there are multiple political routes to that particular goal, and that how we get there is as important as whether we get there."

*Editor's note: Nan D. Hunter is co-director of the Brooklyn Law School's Center for Health, Science and Public Policy. Other accomplishments include: co-author with William Eskridge of the casebook *Sexuality, Gender, and the Law*; founder and first director of the ACLU Lesbian and Gay Rights and AIDS Projects; deputy general counsel at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services from 1993 to 1996; recipient of the Civil Rights Pioneer award given by AmFar (American Foundation for AIDS Research).*

I think that there are multiple political routes to [same-sex marriage]. ... How we get there is as important as whether we get there.

— NAN HUNTER

Why study gender @ IU?

"I began taking gender studies courses because I found that I was constantly bringing up gender-related issues in every class and wanted a formal outlet for that curiosity. Through these courses, I've realized how pervasive gender and its social implications are in everyday life. I plan to use my knowledge from these courses throughout my career in graduate school, since an awareness of gender studies enhances and broadens critical thinking skills and arguments. I am glad that I had the opportunity to study it critically."

— Karolyn Steffens, current gender studies major

"The gender studies major provided me with a rich multidisciplinary understanding of the way in which our societies are constructed around gender. This major has allowed me to pursue courses in cross-cultural anthropology, philosophy, folklore, and political science, all of which have enriched me in infinite ways. I intend to use my degree to work in domestic violence shelters, as well as within city government to influence policy-making on the family and work structures."

— Maria Partlow, current gender studies major

"I think what is truly brilliant about the Department of Gender Studies is the use of diverse methods to focus on one problem, instead of using one method to solve whatever problems you can find with it. It is far more practical to start with the problem and then find all of the methods that can contribute to explaining it than to start with a method, and this is much closer to the kind of thinking that results in true novel discovery or the most skilled problem-solving than the overspecialized training in other departments."

— Patrick O'Neill, current gender studies student

faculty matters

• **Maria Bucur** (history) is a new affiliated faculty member in our department. Her book, *Eugenics and Modernization in Inter-war Romania*, was translated into Romanian and published in Romania in the spring.

Bucur's book was not only reviewed but also became the subject of a forum run by Romania's leading newspaper, *Ziua*. She was also one of the head interviewees for a program, *On the Eastern Front*, that ran on cable TV's History International on July 28, 2005.

• **Mary Gray** (communication and culture) joined our faculty as a new affiliate member this past year. Her doctoral work, *Coming of Age in a Digital Era: Youth Queering Technologies in Small Town, USA*, is an ethnographic study of how young people use new media and other technologies to navigate and narrate a queer sense of identity and belonging in the rural United States.



Mary Gray

Gray's courses on the history of technological innovation and the representation of queer sexualities and genders were well-received by our undergraduate students.

Over the summer months, Gray worked on writing projects ranging from the history of the grassroots organization Queer Nation and its representation in the popular press to the ethical dilemmas stirred by new media methods and the social significance of the popular college Web site thefacebook.com. She will also begin research on her next book-length project: a study of institutional review board processes, scientific knowledge production, and the construction of vulnerable subjects in scientific discourse.

This fall, Gray worked alongside colleagues in gender studies and political science on our yearlong lecture series, "Homeland Insecurities: Sexuality, Citizenship, and Empire."

• In anticipation of the new doctorate in gender studies, **Helen Gremillion** (gender studies) was named director of graduate studies. In just a few months, she worked swiftly on the new gender studies doctor-

ate and related marketing and recruitment activities and wrote all the content for our enhanced Web site, including many new sections just for prospective doctoral students.

In addition, Gremillion continues her ongoing work on her book manuscript, *Ethnographic Therapies*. She is also writing a book chapter on constructions of race and class in representations of eating problems.

This past year, Gremillion gave several talks: She gave the keynote address for the annual undergraduate women's/gender studies conference at IU Southeast; this summer, she was an invited participant in a conference at Stanford University (The Anthropology of the State and the State of Anthropology); and she gave a competitive paper for a conference on Therapeutic Conversations in Vancouver in May and another at the National Women's Studies Conference in June. Back at home, she served as a presenter for Bloomington Continuing Studies' Mini University.

• **Jennifer Maher** (gender studies) has published her most recent essay in the NYU Press anthology *Reality TV: Remaking Television Culture* (2004), and her



Jennifer Maher

most recent work of fiction was published in Seal Press's *Secrets and Confidences: The Complicated Truth about Women's Friendships* (2005). Maher is currently at work on a larger project about gender and representations of the teacher in popular culture, as well as developing a gender and popular culture reader with chair Suzanna Walters and fellow faculty member Brenda Weber.

• **Fedwa Malti-Douglas** (gender studies and law) completed a program in forensic science and forensic medicine with the Virginia Institute of Forensic Science and Medicine in 2005, and she continues her work with the Washington Psychoanalytic Society.

She was appointed a research associate at the Claremont Graduate University Institute for Signifying Scriptures and a member of the Virtual Institute for Humanities



Helen Gremillion

Public art in Germany

Stephanie Kane, a gender studies affiliate faculty member and associate professor of criminal justice, traveled to Germany this past summer on a research project. While abroad, she photographed the public artwork (at right) located near the waterfront and local fish market landing in the port city of Hamburg.

Kane was pleased to see the support of public art recognizing women in nontraditional roles. Upon further inquiry, she learned this piece is part of a series of murals about women who work in the maritime industry. Kudos to Kane for sharing this photo with us.





Fedwa Malti-Douglas

GIS, Religion and the Atlantic world at IUPUI's Polis Center.

In addition, Malti-Douglas is editor in chief of the *Encyclopedia of Sex and Gender*, scheduled to appear as a four-volume

publication with Macmillan in 2007. Her article with Allen Douglas, "Literature and Psychoanalysis," appeared in the *Encyclopedia of Psychoanalysis* (New York: Macmillan, 2005).

She has recently completed an article, "Legal Crossdressing: Sexuality and the Americans with Disabilities Act," to be published in the *Columbia University Journal of Gender and Law*.

• **Anne Pyburn** (anthropology and gender studies), who specializes in recruiting young women into field sciences, spent part of her spring semester with 25 IU students on a dig at a field school in the jungles of Belize.

Pyburn was given a presidential award from the Society for American Archaeology for the matrix project.

In May, she spoke at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C., on "Early Cities: Working Against Traditional Models of the Rise of Civilization (as the result of things that men do)." Her underlying theme was the idea of a primordial division of labor.

She later traveled to the Wenner-Gren conference in Mexico to speak on the relationship of anthropology to archaeology and to work on the perceived wisdom of extant social categories, including gender categories.

She was awarded a two-week Senior Fulbright Fellowship in Brazil at Goias, Universidad Catolica, to conduct a workshop on heritage management and public archaeology. She worked to transform what was considered "women's work" into a respected form of scholarship and activism.

Pyburn was pleased to conduct a two-week teaching workshop in Almaty, Kazakhstan (Soros Foundation), where she taught research ethics.

Pyburn received a \$200,000 grant from the U.S. State Department to begin a new research project on community museums in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan over the next three years. The project will address communities building bridges across national borders and rethinking essentialist categories. In her free time, Pyburn wrote five chapters of her book, *Traveling as an Archaeologist*.

• **Stephanie Sanders** (gender studies and Kinsey Institute) will be heavily involved in the following projects: (1) sexual arousal and sexual inhibition research in women and how these are related to sexual problems and sexual risk-taking; (2) the launching of an extensive online survey of women's sexuality and well-being, to include women of all sexual orientations; (3) research and writing on prenatal exposure to hormonal medications and adult sexuality;



Stephanie Sanders

and (4) studies of condom use errors and problems experienced by men and women.

This past summer, Sanders attended the International Academy of Sex Research meeting in Ottawa, Canada, in which a presentation on a joint research project with her Kinsey colleagues was given, titled "Predicting Sexual Problems and Sexual Risk-Taking in Women: The Relevance of Sexual Inhibition and Sexual Excitation."

• This summer, **Brenda Weber** (gender studies) worked on four essays: "Talking Sex/Talking Kinsey: 1950s Print Culture's



Brenda Weber

Response to Sexual Behavior in the Human Female" (presented at the Berkshire's Conference for the History of Women in Los Angeles); "Subversive Repetitions: Gender/Sex and Metaphors of Maternity"; "I Will Get Domesticated After Awhile": Rhetorics of Gender, Region, and Class at the Western Seminary for Women, est. 1853"; and "Are You Finally Comfortable in Your Own Skin?": The Swan as Program, Pageant, and Phenomenon."

Weber also traveled to China for a faculty exchange through IU and Nankai University. While there, she gave a lecture on recent trends in gender studies.

Other core faculty and their research areas

• **Suzanna Walters**, chair and professor of gender studies, researching queer/feminist studies; media and popular culture; parenting and family structures

• **Laurel Cornell**, associate professor of gender studies and sociology, researching gender and population; gendered landscapes and forms and landscapes; and family in Japan

• **Sara Friedman**, assistant professor of gender studies and anthropology, researching marriage and the state; transnational gender and sexuality; and ethnicity, kinship, and citizenship

• **Colin Johnson**, assistant professor of gender studies, researching gender and sexuality in rural America; history of homosexuality; and film and media studies

• **Richard Wilk**, professor of gender studies and anthropology, researching gender and the origin of consumer culture; Mayan civilizations; and power and decision-making

gender matters

This newsletter is published by the Indiana University Alumni Association, in cooperation with the Department of Gender Studies and the College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Association, to encourage alumni interest in and support for Indiana University. For activities and membership information, call (800) 824-3044 or send e-mail to ialumni@indiana.edu.

Department of Gender Studies
(gender@indiana.edu)

Chair.....Suzanna D. Walters
Editor &

Photographer.....Cynthia P. Stone
Writer.....Raina N. Polivka

College of Arts & Sciences
(college@indiana.edu)

Dean.....Kumble R. Subbaswamy
Executive Director of Development
& Alumni Programs.....David Ellies

IU Alumni Association
(ialumni@indiana.edu)

President/CEO.....Ken Beckley
Director of Alumni

Programs.....Nicki Bland
Editor for Constituent

Periodicals.....Julie Dales
Editorial Assistants.....Keith Roach
and Leora Baude



Q & A with new faculty

Colin Johnson, assistant professor of gender studies

The Department of Gender Studies recently welcomed Colin Johnson as our most recent tenure-track hire. Before the semester went into full-swing, we asked him to briefly share his background and plans for the future.

What appealed to you about coming to teach at Indiana University Bloomington?

Indiana University is a highly resourced, highly respected research institution that



Colin Johnson

is well known for maintaining a sincere commitment to quality teaching. This particular position is relatively unique, as it is almost unheard of for an American university to make a strong commitment

to gender studies and to hire someone for the sole purpose of expanding the institution's ability to offer courses dealing with gender, while increasing the research profile in women's studies and GLBT studies.

What resources that IU offers helped in your decision?

For someone like me, the Kinsey Institute is a big draw. I'm also very impressed with the kinds of strategic investments IU has made in technology that we can use every day. But one cannot really organize one's life around a wireless router or a collection of books. That's why, for me, the most important resources are human, and given my area of research, human resources will also be highly available.

Now that you have the job, are you excited to move to the Midwest? How will living in the Midwest differ from living on the East Coast?

I'm thrilled about moving to the Midwest! I've been living in Washington, D.C., for the past four years, but I've spent most of my life in the Midwest, so moving to Bloomington will be a little like coming home. I actually do not think that it will be that different from living on the East Coast, except that my overall quality of life will go up rather than down. I was a little freaked out, though, when I discovered that I am moving to the 12th best place in the United States to retire!

What are you most looking forward to about your move and new position?

The most exciting thing about my move to Bloomington is the opportunity to put down long-term social and intellectual roots. I've moved 10 times over the past 10 years; I hope my move to Indiana University will be my last move for a very long time. I am also excited about the prospect of following my students' personal and intellectual growth throughout their entire undergraduate careers and watching our graduate students mature into colleagues and lifelong friends.

What research interests do you hope to focus on at IU?

I am very interested in the way the history of sexuality has been determined by our changing notion of where certain kinds of sexuality belong and why they belong there; or how homosexuality and heterosexuality have been associated with metropolitan and non-metropolitan spaces. I am also interested in how the idea of sexual identity has emerged in a non-metropolitan context: How does the emergence of a distinctly modern conceptual framework of sex and gender complicate, displace, augment, or transfigure vernacular traditions and identities?

What course topics would you like to cover in the near future?

I have started thinking about how generational differences affect the coherence of sexual identity politics and what sex and sexual identity politics do to the coherence of "the generation" as a meaningful category of social and cultural solidarity. I have also been thinking about the dis-

courses that are emerging around celibacy, abstinence, and asexuality. I would love to teach a course on these topics, as well as the topics that are nearest and dearest to my heart: gender and geography, the history of sexuality in rural America, feminist and queer theory, and gender and the environment. I want to listen to students so I can offer courses that speak to both their interests and my own.

Tell us about your current course Gay Histories/Queer Cultures. What will it cover? What can students learn?

Any course addressing the history of sexuality — homosexuality, heterosexuality, or otherwise — must also address the ways sexuality is transformed by race, class, gender, and nationality. I am going to provide students with a broad range of examples that positively demonstrate how certain groups of people have forged vibrant identity-based sexual subcultures. However, I will also present historical examples in which identitarianism has taken a back seat to political and cultural practices, which, in effect, have critiqued and destabilized the presumed coherence of "normal" sexuality. We will spend some of our time looking at the mid-20th-century homophile movement, the gay liberation movement, lesbian feminism, and gay men's response to HIV/AIDS. We will conclude the semester by exploring our own contemporary cultural battles over same-sex marriage and the constitutionality of state anti-sodomy statutes by demonstrating that being gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer is something more than a condition to be dealt with or a challenge to be worked through.

IU campus buses carry our message

To reach out to new undergraduates, a series of signs defining gender and sexuality were placed on the free IU Bloomington campus buses this fall during the months of registration.

gender (jě'n'dər)

n. 1. A socially constructed notion of what is masculine or feminine.
2. A sexual identity, especially in relation to society or culture.

Want to know more? Register for an IU Gender Studies Class.

www.indiana.edu/~gender There's so much more to learn about Gender, Sexuality, & Culture!

New visiting lecturer

Lynn Comella joins faculty of gender studies department

“The study of gender and sexuality is evolving in a way that helps us to better understand the society we live in by taking at its core the examination of influences and factors that affect our life experiences, our histories, and our future endeavors,” said visiting lecturer Lynn Comella, when asked why she chose to pursue a career in gender studies. Indeed, Comella’s academic achievements are a model of just how interdisciplinary the study of gender can be.

Comella began her career as a psychology major at Penn State with double minors in both anthropology and women’s studies. She then went further east to the streets of Manhattan, where she obtained a master’s degree from the New School in gender studies and feminist theory. It was there that she explored avenues of social and political thought as they relate to gender, as well as the multifaceted theories of gender and feminism. Comella put her interdisciplinary background into action at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, where she studied media, culture, and the paradigms of gender and sexuality. Comella was awarded her PhD



Lynn Comella

in communication in 2004.

According to Comella, Bloomington, Ind., is not that different from Amherst, Mass.; the move from one college town to another was fairly simple, and

Midwestern friendliness made the transition all the more easy. She says, “Bloomington is more than a college town. There is a distinct sense of community both on and off the campus.”

Of course, her appointment to the IU Department of Gender Studies as visiting lecturer helped facilitate the move. Comella credits both the Kinsey Institute and the opportunity to work alongside chair Suzanna Walters as the key factors that attracted her to Indiana University. She is excited to be a part of a growth-infused department that is on the verge of implementing an unprecedented PhD program.

During her tenure at IU, Comella hopes to publish her dissertation on women-owned and -operated sex stores. She also hopes to pursue several smaller projects related to women’s participation in the sex industry as both cultural producers and consumers.

Aside from tackling various projects and pursuing her research interests, Comella will be teaching three classes this semester: Gender, Sexuality, and Popular Culture; Sex, Gender, and the Body; and Themes in the Study of Gender: Public Culture and Sexuality. In the latter, she will present the intersection of sexuality and commercial culture with an emphasis on images and how the public consumes and translates those images into life experiences. She will lead students in an exploration into the history of pornography and its sub-genres, ending the semester with a discussion of the rise of the women’s market.

The department is honored to have Lynn Comella on the team. We are confident her talents and interests will be a great asset and will have an impact on the lives of her students and fellow colleagues.

Associate instructor tests herself in the field

When Persephone Hintlian, a third-year anthropology doctoral student and gender studies graduate assistant and



Persephone Hintlian
associate instructor, planned her summer academic work, she hoped to spend the next few summers conducting field research on the effects of tourism on a small island off the coast of Honduras. In the summer of 2004, she found herself instead testing her own survival skills.

Upon arrival, Hintlian spent two weeks in Routan and one week in mainland Honduras. She then went to Guanaja, where she traveled by boat with a group to a secluded part of the island. While interviewing local villagers, she became separated from her group. With the sun going down, she began to walk a path along a ridge on the edge of the island to look for her fellow travelers. Suddenly, she lost her footing and began to slide 30 feet down a steep slope.

“I came to a rough stop on a rock outcropping at the bottom of the slope, right above the ocean. I looked down and my

left leg was crumpled underneath me.”

The fall had severely injured Hintlian’s leg and dislocated one of her fingers.

She said, “I thought I would pass out from the pain, but I kept telling myself: You are going to have to get yourself out of here because no one knows where to look for you.”

To protect the field notes she had collected that day, Hintlian pulled her backpack over her head, and then heaved herself into the ocean below. She swam through coral and volcanic rock to the nearest beach. She credits the swimming and emergency skills she learned while life-guarding 10 years ago for her amazing feat.

Hintlian waved down people on the beach who radioed for help. Luckily, the boat that answered the call was being driven by the only EMT on the entire island. He made her a makeshift brace and accompanied her on a flight to the mainland, where she was admitted to the hospital. She endured six hours of surgery for a catastrophic fracture to her tibia.

Soon, messages about her plight got to her advisory committee at the IU anthropology department.

“My advisers and department staff were instrumental in arranging my transporta-

tion back to the U.S. The entire campus community has been so supportive, including the campus’s Disability Services and Parking Operations, which helped make the campus accessible for me while I was in a wheelchair. My fellow graduate students rotated cooking dinners for me, helped transport me to physical therapy, and even built a bench for me to use in my bath tub!”

After intensive therapy and additional surgeries, Hintlian is now walking fairly well and has made a solid recovery, with some lingering effects. Yet the experience did not stop her from returning to Honduras, where she had a highly successful summer conducting research. She recently came back to Bloomington to teach for the Department of Gender Studies. Further, it has not changed her dissertation topic or her research pursuits. She was pleased to make the trip to Honduras this summer. “My sustaining goal has been getting well enough to return this summer. I wanted to show my appreciation for the help I received from the Honduran people.”

Editor’s note: This story is adapted from an earlier article which appeared in the January 2005 Majority Report, published by the Office for Women’s Affairs, and is used with permission.

departmental matters

Graduating seniors recognized

A graduating senior reception was held last April with nearly 20 graduating seniors in attendance, along with several graduate students, and many gender studies faculty and staff members.

Honoring seniors was the focus for the evening. That night we also awarded our Barbara C. Gray Scholarship to **Patrick O'Neill**, one of our undergraduate students. O'Neill won a \$500 scholarship for writing the best gender studies paper of the year, an essay on masculinity, for his class with Brenda Weber.

Other finalists were **Emily Sekine** (second place), **Jill Glassbrook** (third place), and **Colleen Reilly** (fourth place). A faculty review committee selected O'Neill's paper after viewing all 15 papers anonymously. Congratulations go to all these students for their stellar work.

The Barbara C. Gray Scholarship was established in loving memory by the family of one of our graduate students who was killed in 1978.

Also at the reception we recognized three new Phi Beta Kappa inductees: **Sarah Thompson**, majoring in gender studies; **Kristen Wortley**, a triple major in psychology, sociology, and gender studies; and **Anne Rohlman**, a double major in communication and culture and gender studies.

One of these students, Kristen Wortley, shared her plans to work in Atlanta to gain real-world experience, eventually returning to academia to pursue a PhD in psychology. Wortley hopes to become a practicing psychologist with a particular focus on relationships and gender. She adds, "I chose my gender studies major because I was lucky enough to fall into a gender stud-



Kristen Wortley, left, senior and Phi Beta Kappa inductee; Brenda Weber, assistant professor of gender studies; and Patrick O'Neill, Weber's student and recipient of the Barbara C. Gray Scholarship

ies course. I felt intrigued by the topics and felt the knowledge came to me with ease. It was a great eye-opening experience into the world of both femininity and masculinity; I learned a great deal about the implications of gender and sex and how to apply them to everyday life. I am a liberal individual and I felt as though gender studies courses suited my personality well and catered to my interests. Overall, I had a great time and great experiences in the gender studies department."

By the end of the evening, all graduating seniors had been recognized, and each received a care package of materials along with their first alumni decal for their automobile to show their IU alumni pride!

The Department of Gender Studies currently has approximately 60 majors and 40 minors, and 26 active graduate students are pursuing the PhD minor in our department.

Nine named to dean's list

The following nine recent gender studies graduates and current majors are to be congratulated for earning a spot on the dean's list of the College of Arts and Sciences in 2004–05.

Jill Glassbrook
Manpreet Grewal
Rachel Gutterman
Maria Partlow-Duffy
Belinda Quimby
Colleen Reilly
Sarah Relyea
Lauren Rosenberg
Kimberly Trennett

About the Barbara C. Gray Scholarship

In 1977, IU gender studies had a graduate student in our program named Barbara Carol Gray. She was enrolled in a master's program in creative writing and was completing a minor in what was then called women's studies. She was a highly involved student in our department and worked in the Kinsey Institute for Sex, Gender, and Reproduction as well.

Tragically, she and her brother were killed on Christmas Eve as they left Bloomington for the holidays to return to their home in Arkansas.

To honor Barbara Gray, her husband, David Richard, and family provided the funds for a scholarship program for a student in our department.

Rubin wins Palmer-Brandon Prize



Lindi Rubin

Rosalind "Lindi" Rubin, of Baton Rouge, La., was one of two IU winners of the 2005 Palmer-Brandon Prize competition. She will receive \$10,000 to be used to further her educational experiences.

The Palmer-Brandon Prize is given annually to outstanding full-time students who are majoring in the humanities. Rubin is a junior majoring in theater and drama with minors in gender studies, communication and culture, and English.



Department extends thanks to donors

We wish to sincerely thank the many donors who have so generously contributed financial support to the Department of Gender Studies 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. For information about how to donate, contact the Department of Gender Studies at gender@indiana.edu.

alumni matters

Tracy N. Betz, BA'00, JD'04, has joined the law firm of Sommer Barnard, Indianapolis, as an associate.

Melissa Cameron (Barsic) Butler, BA'94, is a research associate at the Human-Computer Interaction Institute at Carnegie Mellon University.

Melinda Cleary, BA'00, graduated magna cum laude from Michigan State University's 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 the *Thomas M. Cooley Journal of Clinical and Practical Law*. She 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.

Christina M. Dulude, BA'01, MIS'03, is the Web developer for the Division of Student Affairs at Duke University. She had previously spent two years working for the IU School of Medicine in Indianapolis as the Web specialist in the Office of Public and Media Relations.

Stacy M. Fass, BA'04, is the walk manager for the inaugural National Alliance for Autism Research Walkathon in New York, projected to raise a quarter of a million dollars and attract 3,000 participants. She has also been appointed to New York Councilman Hiram Monserrate's Autism Task Force, reporting to New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

Melissa A. Federoff, BA'98, MS'02, is a user research engineer at Microsoft Game Studios. In August, she was a keynote speaker at the Women in Games 2005 Conference at the University of Abertay, Dundee, Scotland.

Mini University lecture a big hit

Our chair, Suzanna Walters, was invited by Bloomington Continuing Studies and the IU Alumni Association to join the faculty of this year's Mini University, held in June on the Bloomington campus.

Walters's talk, "All the Rage: The Story of Gay Visibility in America," was well attended, with more than 60 alumni of all ages packed into the 90-minute session. Following a talk peppered with media clips from popular shows, such as *Queer as Folk* and *Will and Grace*, and recent films, Walters fielded questions that covered a wide range of gay/lesbian issues.

A number of alumni proceeded to the IU Bookstore to purchase Walters's book, *All the Rage: The Story of Gay Visibility in America*; it was sold out by the end of the day.



Gender studies chair Suzanna Walters, right, meets with one of the Mini University participants following Walters's talk.

In memoriam

We received sad news from the IU Alumni Association of the death of **Rebecca Brianne May**. May, of Syracuse, N.Y., and her mother were both killed in a train accident this past March.

May was born on June 30, 1977, in Lafayette, Ind. She attended LaPorte High School, where she was active in the Blue Coats Drum and Bugle Corps. She graduated from Indiana University Bloomington in May 2000 with a bachelor's degree in gender studies.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society in May's name.

ANNOUNCING

IUAlumniCareers.com

Wanted: IU Alumni Mentors

IU alumni are invited to register now to give career advice to other alumni on our new online career services center, **IUAlumniCareers.com**, which is scheduled to launch in January 2006. This Web site will provide career and mentoring services for Indiana University alumni. As a mentor, you may choose how often and in what manner you wish to be contacted, and you may opt out of the mentor program at any time.

Wanted: IU Alumni Employers

Employers are invited to register now online at **IUAlumniCareers.com**. If you are an employer, you may register your company now to post job openings. There is no charge to employers for this service.

Questions?

Contact the IU Alumni Association at iuaamemb@indiana.edu or (800) 824-3044.



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
CONNECTING ALUMNI. SERVING IU.

Have tag, will travel



Send us your business card — or just your business information — and we'll send it back to you laminated and attached to a strap, perfect for your traveling pleasure. (One tag per graduate, please.)

Your luggage tag will show that you are proud of your connection to the College of Arts & Sciences at IU and will improve our alumni database.

Mail your card or information to Luggage Tags, College of Arts & Sciences, Kirkwood Hall 208, 130 S. Woodlawn, Bloomington, IN 47405.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

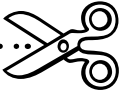
Virgil T. DeVault Alumni Center
1000 East 17th Street
Bloomington, Indiana 47408-1521

Nonprofit Org.
Postage
PAID
Indiana University
Alumni Association

Printed on recycled paper in U.S.A.

What's new with you?

The IU Alumni Association is charged with maintaining records for all IU alumni. Please print as much of the following information as you wish. Its purpose, in addition to providing us with your class note, is to keep IU's alumni records accurate and up to date. To verify and update your information online, visit our online alumni directory at www.alumni.indiana.edu/directory.



Publication carrying this form: *Gender Matters: Gender Studies Alumni Newsletter* Date _____

Name _____

Preferred Name _____

Last name while at IU _____ IU Degree(s)/Yr(s) _____

Univ. ID # (PeopleSoft) _____

Home address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Business title _____ Company/Institution _____

Company address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

*E-mail _____ *Home page URL _____

*Please indicate clearly upper and lower case.

Mailing address preference: Home Business

Spouse name _____ Last name while at IU _____

IU Degree(s)/Yr(s) _____

Your news: _____

Please send me information about IU Alumni Association programs, services, and communications.

Please mail to the address above, or fax to (812) 855-8266.