Celebration Will Honor Jeanine Hathaway

On Saturday, April 14, Jeanine Hathaway will be the guest of honor at a reception celebrating the publication of her latest book, a collection of poems entitled The Self as Constellation that won the 2001 Vassar Miller Prize in Poetry. The public reception will be held at 2:00 p.m. in the Suderman Room (entrance C) in the WSU Metropolitan Complex, 29th and Oliver, and will include a reading by Hathaway, associate professor of creative writing in the WSU English Department.

Although her poems have appeared in numerous journals and anthologies, The Self as Constellation is Hathaway’s first published book of poetry. She is author of Motherhouse, an autobiographical novel, and writes a monthly column for The Wichita Times.

Hathaway teaches cross-listed classes with Women’s Studies and has been a featured writer in the Center’s Words By Women Series. The reception is sponsored by the WSU English Department and the Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Jeanine Hathaway’s poetry collection, The Self as Constellation, is divided into two thematical sections: the first part explores spirituality and significant relationships with God, family, friends and oneself; the second section focuses on a third-century hermit woman who has gone to the desert to pray after converting to Christianity. The book will be published in April during National Poetry Month and is available at Watermark Books and Cafe, 4701 E. Douglas, www.watermarkbooks.com.

“Parallel Lives” Play and Party On May 4 Promise A Good Time for a Good Cause

In the opening scene of “Parallel Lives,” two female angels are busy designing the world. Afraid of the jealousy that women’s ability to bear children will spark, the angels try to “take the shine off” childbirth by suggesting potential downsides like “I know, let’s make it messy” and other absurd-sounding ideas that turn out to be true.

Local actors Liz Willis and Jean Ann Cusick will play the leads in “Parallel Lives,” a hilarious comedy about women and their take on life, death and the struggle between the sexes, on Saturday, May 4 at 7:30 p.m. in WSU’s Wilner Auditorium. Dick Welsbacher is the director and Joyce Cavarozzi assistant director. The performance is a benefit for the Words By Women Series endowment campaign.

Tickets are $10 and $50 for priority seating, and include admission to the “Parallel Party” at WSU’s Edwin A. Ulrich Museum immediately following the play. (The Ulrich Museum is located across the street from Wilner Auditorium.) The “Parallel Party” will include refreshments, a cash bar and musical entertainment. Tickets are available in advance at the WSU Fine Arts Box Office, 978-3233, and at the door.

“Parallel Lives” was written by Kathy Najimy and Mo Gaffney and won two Cable Ace awards and an Obie Award. It has received rave reviews across the country. Variety dubbed it “…a romp with a feminist sensibility; it’s humor for a post-Lily Tomlin generation… Above all, “Parallel Lives” is a smart, provocative show.”

“We’re celebrating the success of our fundraising campaign,” said Dorothy Miller, chair of Women’s Studies. “We’re ready to laugh and have fun with this play and party, and raise additional funds too.”

The comedy features two actresses playing 11 different characters, including “middle management” supreme beings assigned the project of creation; a college “valley girl” coed on a date in a gay restaurant; and a drunken cowboy in a country western bar.

The stars of “Parallel Lives” are two actresses well-known to Wichita’s theatre-going audiences. Liz Willis’ most recent performances include the senator’s wife in “Born Yesterday” at the Crown Uptown Theatre, Alice B. Toklas in “Gertrude Stein and party, and raise additional funds too.”

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Women's Studies

FACULTY ACTIVITIES

Dr. Dorothy C. Miller, chair, associate professor, recently had a chapter published in the book Building on Women’s Strengths: A Social Work Agenda for the Twenty-First Century (Haworth Press, 2001). Her chapter is entitled: “What is Needed for True Equality: An Overview of Policy Issues for Women.” In February, she spoke about the 1960s War on Poverty on a panel of speakers at a local conference, “From Complacency to Passion: The 60s and How They Changed America.”

This semester Dr. Miller served (along with two Women’s studies Advisory Board members — Gracia Toubia and Kris Wilshusen) on the Kansas Advisory Board of the Institute for Women’s Policy Research for their project, “The Status of Women in Kansas.” She also served on the Search Committee for a new dean of the Fairmount College of Arts and Liberal Sciences.

On the national level, Dr. Miller continues as membership chair and governing council member for the National Women’s Studies Association.

An article on Sally Corbin, wife of former WSU President Harry Corbin, by Dr. Gayle Davis, associate professor of Women’s Studies and associate vice president for academic affairs, appeared in Presidential Partners, First Ladies of the University, edited by Jim Rhatigan, which was recently released by the WSU Foundation. She also has a forthcoming article in the festschrift dedicated to Dr. Ramon Powers, retiring executive director of the Kansas State Historical Society. The article is entitled Diary Material: Signs of Perfect Womanhood and Personal Artistry.

On March 13, Dr. Davis presented her slide lecture “Frontier Quilts and Diaries” to University United Methodist Church Women in Wichita.

Dr. Davis continues her service to the Kansas State Historical Society, sitting as immediate past president of the board of directors on the Society’s executive committee, as co-chair of the development committee and as a member of the publications committee. Davis also is a member of the KSHS editorial advisory board, and has recently completed her work as co-chair of the search committee for the next executive director.

As part of her administrative role at WSU, Dr. Davis attended the Central Association of College and University Business Officers in St. Louis in February. In March, she took part in the induction ceremonies for new members of the WSU chapter of Phi Kappa Phi by introducing nine new faculty into the honorary society.

In November 2001, Dr. Deborah Gordon, associate professor, attended a one-day conference, “Women in Islamic Societies in a New Era of Globalization.” Sponsored by the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at the University of California–Berkeley, the conference allowed Dr. Gordon to interact with leading scholars in Middle Eastern Women’s Studies.

In February 2002, Dr. Gordon presented a paper, “‘We Can’t Move’: Postmodernity from the West Bank,” at the 11th Annual Cultural Studies Conference at Kansas State University. She discussed the dilemmas for feminist social movement as the Oslo Accords brought new pressures on Palestinian society to build a nation-state within an expanded foreign military occupation. In April, Dr. Gordon travels to University of Kansas to present a paper for the Gender Studies colloquium, sponsored by the KU Women’s Studies program. In September, she will present a paper at the World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies in Mainz, Germany.

Dr. Gordon chaired the Center’s annual Women’s History Month program and continues to serve on the L.A.S. College Curriculum Committee. In January, she was nominated for a teaching award by WSU’s Academy for Effective Teaching.

Dr. Carol Wolfe Konek, professor, has been home recuperating from surgery. She sends her regards to friends, colleagues and students who have sent cards and made phone calls of support.

Dr. Ramona Liera-Schwichtenberg, associate professor and graduate coordinator of the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies program, was honored as a plenary speaker at the September 2001 conference on Visual Rhetoric at Indiana University. At the conference she presented a paper entitled “Fashioning Difference and the Power of the Visible: Latina Looks in Fashion/Beauty Advertising.” At Wichita State, Dr. Liera-Schwichtenberg participated on the panel “Beyond Killing us Softly” for the Student Government Organization and the student group, Women’s Studies Scholars and Allies.

Dr. Liera-Schwichtenberg organized a faculty-student reception for the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Program, is a member of several thesis committees and continues to work on the College Council and the Faculty Senate.

“Vagina Monologues” Sells Out In Wichita!

In spite of frigid temperatures and fierce winds, a sell-out crowd packed Wilner Auditorium on February 9 to see a performance of the groundbreaking play “Vagina Monologues,” co-sponsored by the WSU Theater Department and the Center for Women’s Studies. WSU joined more than 500 college campuses presenting the play on or near Valentine’s Day as part of a world-wide effort to focus on the importance of ending violence against women.

Directed by Joyce Cavarozzi, associate professor of theatre, “Vagina Monologues” featured WSU students as well as Wichita actresses and reflected women’s experiences, thoughts, feelings and frustrations about – yes – their vaginas.

The event raised more than $3,000 for the Wichita Women’s Crisis Center and Safe House. An additional $200 was sent to the Wichita Women’s Crisis Center and Safe House. An additional $200 was sent to V-Day headquarters in New York to assist women in Afghanistan.

Many thanks and congratulations to Joyce Cavarozzi for her work and dedication creating an entertaining and moving evening for Wichita’s theatergoers.

Women’s Studies faculty provide interesting, professional programs for groups and organizations at no cost through its Speakers Bureau. Topics range from the images of women in films to the impact of the glass ceiling on working women. Program lengths can be tailored to individual needs. For information and a list of topics, contact Vicky Reiff at vreiff@earthlink.net or call (316) 636-2888.
From the Director
by Dr. Dorothy C. Miller

Women’s Studies seems to have been in a constant state of change since the fall. Our secretary, Mary Smith, who was with us for six years, retired in December. All who knew her will remember Mary’s ability to fix almost anything smoothly, her friendliness, and most of all her kindness. The office is still in good hands, though, via the hire of Barbara Fly, our new and capable secretary, who also has been with the university in other capacities.

Meanwhile, Professor Carol Wolfe Konek is still at home recovering from the brain surgery she had in November. We are eager to see her back in the office, which permeates with her warmth and wisdom when she is here. Carol is scheduled to teach in the fall, and we are sending her “good vibes” to speed her recovery.

In the coming fall semester, the department will experience another change, albeit temporary. I will be on sabbatical, working on a book manuscript on care and public policy (My thesis is that we need a single community event we can turn to have a sabbatical for the spring 2003 semester.

Perhaps the biggest change pending is that we will be saying at least a partial farewell to Lee Starkel, who is stepping down from the Women’s Studies Community Council Advisory Board this spring. Lee has served as paid staff and consummate volunteer on this board since its inception in 1990. She has been involved with the advertising, marketing, and most of the “nuts and bolts” of probably every single community event we’ve sponsored over the last 20 years. Although Lee will still be around to do the Women’s Studies newsletter and chair the Words by Women Series campaign, we will miss her intense involvement.

Giving To Campaign Is Rewarding

A fundraising campaign to endow the Words By Women Series (formerly known as the Kay Closson Women Writing Series) was officially announced in October during the 2001 series that featured readings by Jane Hamilton, Maxine Clair and Patricia Traxler. Six months later, the campaign has raised approximately 50% of its $130,000 goal in cash and pledges. Presented as part of the Center for Women’s Studies’ annual programming since 1981, Words By Women is Wichita’s longest running literary series. Two donors explain why they are willing to support the series financially:

“The Words by Women writing series is one of the few ways the community has to hear writers. When the authors speak, they give the audience so much more about the whys, whens and whos of their book — they also share the feelings. For those of us who love to read, this series is a wonderful experience.”

Kelly Callen, president, Edmiston Oil Company, & Women’s Studies board member

“Last year, the Words by Women Series provided me with an opportunity to meet and listen to one of my very favorite authors (Jane Hamilton) and introduced me to an important new voice (Patricia Traxler). The series is an asset and treasure for Wichita State and for the Wichita community.”

Ted Ayres, general counsel & associate to the President, Wichita State University

Anyone interested in supporting the Words By Women Series is encouraged to call Women’s Studies at 978-3358.
Movies are the focus of **Hollywood Melodrama** and that means viewing and discussing films such as “Stella Dallas,” “Written On the Wind,” “Now Voyager,” “Imitation of Life,” “Letter from An Unknown Woman” and “All That Heaven Allows.” Readings for the course include *The Melodrama of Imagination* and *Valley of the Dolls.*
Women's Global Issues  
**WS 391**  
3 cr hrs  
Sec 14347  12:30-1:45  
TTh  
CW Konek  
Explores women’s issues from a global perspective in relation to policies approved by the International Women’s Decade conferences of the United Nations. Emphasizes understanding the impact of nationalism, race, class and cultural values in creating obstacles to women’s full participation in society and considers strategies for achieving full human rights for women. **PREREQUISITE**

Women & Reform in History: 1830-Present  
**WS 512**  
3 cr hrs  
Sec 14392  8:30-9:20  
MWF  
GR Davis  
Traces women’s involvement in various social reform activities in the United States that eventually led to work toward equal rights and improved conditions for women. Cross-listed as History 512

Feminist Film Criticism  
**WS 523**  
3 cr hrs  
Sec 14401  12:30-1:45  
MW  
R Liera-Schwichtenberg  
Examines the historical development of feminist film theory and criticism of the classical Hollywood film, with a special emphasis on the representations of women in film noir such as “Double Indemnity,” “Mildred Pierce” and “The Postman Always Rings Twice.” Readings include Women in Film, Noir and The Bride Wore Black. Applies methods of feminist film analysis to the representation of women in film. **PREREQUISITE**

Cross-listed as English 580

Psychology of Women  
**WS 534**  
3 cr hrs  
Sec 14410  12:30-1:45  
MW  
S Hargrave  
Examines various psychological assumptions, research and theories of the roles, behaviors and potential of women in contemporary society. Cross-listed as Psychology 534 **PREREQUISITES**

Directed Readings  
WS 570/870  
1-3 cr hrs  
Arranged  
staff

Designed for students who wish to pursue special readings or research projects not covered in regularly scheduled coursework. Instructor’s consent required prior to enrollment.

Gender, Race & Knowledge  
**WS 586**  
3 cr hrs  
Sec 14446  4:30-6:45  
M  
DA Gordon  
Examines the impact of gender and race on knowledge (understanding of objects, people, events and activities). Assumes that gender, race and knowledge are socially constructed categories. Focuses on white masculinist beliefs that motivate and effect the practice of academic disciplines.

Leadership Techniques for Women  
**WS 635**  
3 cr hrs  
Sec 11455  8:30-10:40  
W  
CW Konek  
Discusses group and individual theories and strategies of leadership for women. Cross-listed as Communications 635

It’s easy to register at WSU!  
- by mail: write to the WSU Office of Admissions, 1845 Fairmount, Wichita, KS 67260-0124, (316) 978-3085  
- on the WSU website: www.wichita.edu  
- in person at the WSU Admissions Office, 111 Jardine Hall  
- in person at WSU Downtown, 127 N. Market; WSU Westside, 7011 W. Central; or WSU Southside, 4501 E. 47th St. South  
- by phone: (316) 978-6500 — current students only

In the **Women and Dependencies** class, students read *Can’t Buy My Love: How Advertising Changes The Way We Think and Feel* by Jean Kilbourne, an internationally recognized expert on the images of women in advertising. In her book, Kilbourne examines the dangerous side effects of advertising and how it creates a climate of denial that allows various kinds of addictions to flourish.
Women have often been encouraged to engage in various domestic arts such as sewing and decorative stitchery, personal writing such as family correspondence and diary-keeping, music and other creative forms that serve to enhance their own and their family’s lives. Studies of these types of material culture, personal writings and performance produced in a family have been tremendous boons to the study of women’s history. Thanks to Mary Werner, painting instructor in Art and Design at Wichita State, I have recently been introduced to an astounding, rich collection of just such family history materials.

Mary has told me that creativity just “bubbled out” of her grandmother, Ruby Enns Wiebe. There could be no more apt description. Ruby kept a conventional personal diary, and when she was a young girl, she used sketchbooks for drawings of her family’s routine and special occasions.

As a married adult and mother of five children, she further expressed her creativity by making domestic decorations, embellishing her recipes with drawings, and in general approaching the everyday materials of her life with an eye toward beauty and creative imagination.

For her youngest child Lorna, Mary’s mother, she kept a birthday book in which she wrote an entry on Lorna’s birthday to recap the past year of Lorna’s life. She didn’t settle for mere description, though, choosing instead to write from Lorna’s perspective and in her voice until Lorna was old enough to begin keeping the birthday book herself. The later entries included a current five-and-dime store photo machine portrait of Lorna, and frequently a swatch of fabric from the clothing she wore in the picture.

Ruby also made a notebook documenting garments she had made for Lorna, including a hand drawn sketch of each item of clothing and a piece of the cloth from which it was made. She wrote where and on what occasion Lorna received the clothing, again, as though she were writing from her child’s viewpoint.

As the children grew older, Ruby turned from her personal diary and Lorna’s books to focus her creative endeavors on the production of the Wiebe Weeklies, a home-produced weekly newspaper. She produced the Weeklies from the late 1930s to the mid 1970s for her family’s enjoyment.

Complete with masthead, headlines and illustrations, Ruby combined traditions of newspapers, scrapbooks, and journals to give tangible form to the Wiebe family experiences. Each issue of Wiebe Weeklies is two to four pages long and written in 8.5x11 spiral notebooks. The contents included articles she wrote about family activities, poems, illustrations clipped from magazines, swatches of fabrics and sketches of her sewing projects as well as other items of family interest, all decoratively arranged and enhanced with Ruby’s drawings or border designs.

The Weeklies now fill an entire chest of drawers in the Newton, Kansas, home of Alvera Wiebe Schmidt, Ruby’s sister, who graciously opened her collection to me for an afternoon of intriguing reading. Taken together, the collection of notebooks reveals an intimate understanding of this close-knit family and the particular concerns and values of the woman who produced the Weeklies. More than conventional journals or scrapbooks can accomplish alone, Ruby’s format integrates both narrative and material evidence, resulting in insights into the biographical facts as well as the emotional content of life’s developments for the Wiebes.

It is this sort of untapped resource that can lend delight and fullness of meaning in the study of family’s and women’s history. I look forward to further exploration of these treasures.

Over 1,000 women are honored in the WSU Plaza of Heroines. Histories and photographs submitted for many of the heroines and can be accessed at the Plaza’s computer kiosk in Jabara Hall, located immediately north of the Plaza on the Wichita State campus, or by visiting the Plaza Internet site at http://Plaza.twsu.edu/heroines
“Sacred Space”: A Campus/Community Project
by Linda Cory, Women’s Studies major

School students are collaborating on the labyrinth. Students in Norm Terry’s graphic design class at Northeast participated in an ornamental design competition, while Cheryl Lindstrom’s advanced painting class at the high school worked on the carpet.

The portal designs were submitted by students and alumni of the WSU Decorative and Ornamental Painting certificate program directed by Diane Thomas Lincoln. Faculty in the WSU School of Art and Design judged the 22 maquettes submitted from which eight were selected for exhibit. Teams of volunteers are helping the winning designers build the full scale portals. Students are also designing the garden walls and entryway.

The “Sacred Space” planning committee is made up of volunteers from the WSU Decorative Arts Guild. Co-directors of the “Sacred Space” exhibition are Diane Thomas Lincoln and Kathy Hull. Lincoln is director and principal instructor of the Decorative and Ornamental Painting program at WSU, principal researcher for the Visual Arts Cultural Heritage Research Project and a widely respected artist, educator and activist. Hull is visual resources curator for the WSU Art History program, a labyrinth designer and a passionate inter-faith educator and activist.

Educational materials and guided tours will be available to help visitors of all ages appreciate the complex issues addressed by the exhibition. Interns are working with WSU Art History professor Annette LeZotte and Angie Miller, education coordinator at the Ulrich Museum, to create a program for educational opportunities for students who visit the exhibit.

To book tours of “Sacred Space,” contact Angie Miller at 978-3664 or via email at angela.miller@wichita.edu. For more information or to offer your support, please contact Diane Thomas Lincoln at Dglinc1@aol.com, or Kathy Hull at kathy.hull@wichita.edu.

For friends and family attending my graduation in May, “Sacred Space” will definitely be on my tour of the Wichita State campus.

Kathy Najimy Well Known for TV, Movie and Stage Roles

If you go to movies or watch TV, then you have seen Kathy Najimy, co-author of “Parallel Lives.” Her film work includes Sister Act, Hocus Pocus, The Wedding Planner. Her television roles include starring opposite Kirstie Alley in Veronica’s Closet and in Chicago Hope and Ellen. On the Broadway stage, Najimy played Mae West in “Dirty Blonde” and performed in the “Vagina Monologues” with Susan Sarandon, Glenn Close, Gloria Steinem and Whoopie Goldberg.

Wichita’s public television station, KPTS Channel 8, will air For Generations: The Making of a Plaza of Heroines at Wichita State University in September. The hour-long video tells the story of the Plaza, from the original idea through the planning, construction and dedication ceremonies. Check KPTS’s Viewer’s Guide for the date and time for airing.
Nominees Sought For Wing Walker Award

Next spring, the Center for Women’s Studies will present the Wing Walker Award to a woman who has demonstrated a history of distinguished service to the Wichita community. This prestigious award, created by the Forum for Executive Women, has been presented to seven notable women: Olive Ann Beech, Nancy Kassebaum, Kay Arvin, Dr. Donna Sweet, Sister Tarcisia Roth, Velma Wallace and Linda Weir-Enegren.

To expand the nomination process, a form has been included in this newsletter. Anyone is welcome to nominate a woman who meets the following award criteria:

- demonstrates an excellence in business, professional, volunteer and/or community service work over a period of at least 10 years;
- possesses a record of extraordinary accomplishments and influence at the local state, regional and/or national levels;
- serves as an outstanding role model for other women to emulate.

“In the past, the Wing Walker Award has honored some of Wichita’s most exemplary women, and the Women’s Studies Advisory Board plans to carry this tradition into the future,” says board member Sheryl Wohlford who is co-chairing the planning committee with Jane Deterding. “We invite the community to thoughtfully nominate women who have made a difference in Wichita, and who have a history of distinguished and extraordinary service to the community.”

The deadline for submissions is June 1. The enclosed form should be completed in its entirety.

Mothers Find Their Place In the Plaza

The Plaza of Heroines at Wichita State University offers a truly special way to remember and celebrate the women you love and admire on Mother’s Day, May 12. Consider giving an engraved tribute in the Plaza as a unique and lasting way to honor mothers, mother-in-laws, grandmothers or any women who is important to your life.

Brick, granite pavers and trees are still available for Plaza of Heroine tributes. An announcement to present to your personal heroine on Mother’s Day can be prepared for all orders placed by May 1. Call 978-7161 to receive a brochure.

Wichita State does not discriminate in its programs and activities on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies: Director, Office of Affirmative Action, Wichita State University, 1845 Fairmount, Wichita, Kansas 67260-0145; telephone (316) 978-3371.

Center for
Women’s Studies
Wichita State University
1845 N. Fairmount
Wichita, KS 67260-0082

Honor the special women in your life in the Plaza of Heroines at Wichita State University

tel: (316) 978-3358
fax: (316) 978-3186
email: women.studies@wichita.edu
visit: http://webs.wichita.edu/wmstudy